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ABSTRACT

This report is a summary of the findings of the societal trends survey completed at the National Forum on Learning and The American Future, which focused on factors influencing the future of adult learning. The survey questionnaire and results consist of 120 societal trend statements organized into sixteen different content areas: demography; economy; energy and ecology; politics and government; international relations and national defense; law and justice; community and family; health and medicine; science and technology; work and employment; education and training; culture, humanities, and the arts. The 1074 participants (policy decision makers, educators, and scholars) responded to each societal trend statement in three ways: (1) forecast the direction and rate of change for the trend from 1980 to 2000, (2) assess the impact of the trend on life in America from 1980 to 2000, and (3) comment on the response. The data were analyzed in three groups (liberals, conservatives, and moderates) according to the pattern of responses. Findings indicate that the liberals were the most satisfied with progress in the quality of life during the past decade and the least pessimistic about the likelihood of economic depression. Dominant conservative themes included economic pessimism, national security, free enterprise, military strength, and less government regulation. (Directions for completing the survey and a brief technical summary are presented in the appendix.) (LEA)

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Future Directions for a Learning Society

The College Board

ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS OF THE AMERICAN FUTURE

1980 -- 2000

by

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Future Directions for a Learning Society
The College Board
888 Seventh Avenue
New York, New York 10019
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The Future Directions for a Learning Society (FDLS) program is a major effort of the College Board to increase access and to improve educational opportunities for adult learners in the United States. Funded by the Exxon Education Foundation, the program is designed to achieve consensus on future trends, to produce information on the needs of adult learners and to assist the diverse agencies, institutions and organizations that offer adult learning opportunities. With the participation of policymakers, professionals, funding sources and the general public, FDLS develops policy recommendations and demonstrates promising new approaches and specific services that are likely to benefit adult learners.

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Purposes

This report is a summary of the findings of the Societal Trends Survey completed in the first round of the National Forum on Learning and the American Future.

The forum is designed to answer three basic questions about the future of adult learning:

1. What contemporary and future societal trends will have the most impact on life in America from 1980 to 2000?

2. What societal, institutional, and personal needs should be given a high priority as goals for the future of adult learning from 1980 to 2000?

3. What changes, if any, are needed to alter the future directions of adult learning over the next twenty years, and what societal or institutional groups should initiate those changes?

Participating in the forum are 1556 policy decision makers, educators, and scholars who, by virtue of their organizational roles, expertise, and reputations, are in a position to influence the future directions of adult learning in the United States.

In the first round of the forum, 1276 Societal Trend Surveys were returned (82% of those who agreed to participate) but only 1074 were returned in time for processing (69% of the 1556 who agreed to participate).

The following report summarizes the responses and comments of the processed forms in outline form. This format is designed to help each participant consider the range of views expressed in the forum as a means of constructing a relevant scenario or image of the future. The scenario will be a mental impression of what the future will be like: a set of related assumptions and their probable consequences.

Having formed this image of the future, the participants are now asked:

1. To consider the opportunities and constraints this future will have on adult learning.

2. To examine the possible contributions of adult learning in satisfying future societal, institutional, and personal needs.

3. To complete the Goals Survey indicating what changes in goal priorities will be needed in the future.

Societal Trends Survey

The Societal Trends Survey was developed for the forum as an economical and convenient way of involving a large, select panel of policy decision makers, educators, and scholars in a forecast of the American future. The survey questionnaire consists of 120 societal trend statements organized into 16 different content areas with 7 to 8 statements in each area:

- Demography
- Economy
- Energy and Ecology
- Politics and Government
- International Relations and National Defense
- Law and Justice
- Community and Family
- Health and Medicine
- Science and Technology
- Work and Employment
- Education and Training
- Culture, Humanities, and the Arts

- o Equality of Opportunity
- o Religion and Humanism
- o Media and Communications
- o Leisure and Recreation

Participants in the forum were asked to respond to each societal trend statement in three ways (directions included in Appendix A):

1. Forecast the direction and rate of change for the societal trend from 1980 to 2000.

2. Assess the impact of the societal trend, as you have forecast it, on life in America from 1980 to 2000.

3. Comment on your response in any way you want.

To cover the entire range of issues and to save participants time, the societal trend statements were randomly assigned to three different versions of the survey questionnaire, each consisting of 30 common statements and 30 different statements. For this reason, the number of responses for some societal trend statements is based on the total population of survey participants and for others on a 33 percent random sample.

Alternative Scenarios of the Future

Futures forecasting is an art rather than a science: it is not possible to predict the future with certainty or accuracy. Because the future is not necessarily an extension of past events and current conditions, alternative scenarios of the future need to be considered in long-range planning.

To prepare alternative images of the future and to identify societal trends on which forum participants agree and disagree, both statistical data and comments were used. Responses of the forum participants were analyzed for all items, grouping questionnaires when agreement was high and separating them when agreement was low.

Having decided in advance to present three alternative scenarios, the data were analyzed in three groups. The questionnaire responses were then analyzed to identify the societal trends on which each of the three groups either agreed or disagreed. Finally, the comments of each group of questionnaries were examined item by item, seeking common and unique themes.

Reviewing the pattern of responses and comments for each group, the first seemed more "liberal," the second more "moderate," and the third more "conservative," relative to the other survey groups. Although these labels are imperfect and even perhaps disputable, they do provide a reasonable basis for presenting the data and main themes for each alternative scenario.

Liberals (N= 294) were the most satisfied with progress in the quality of life during the past decade (59% better, 22% worse), the least pessimistic about the likelihood of an economic depression (21% probable/very probable, 58% possible/unlikely), and the most optimistic about future improvements in the quality of life (63% better, 15% worse). Among the dominant liberal themes were: economic optimism, international cooperation, equality of opportunity, environmental protection, conservation, necessity of government spending, our ability to solve chronic problems, consumer protection, and secular humanism.

Conservatives (N= 302) were the least satisfied with progress in the quality of life during the past decade (41% better, 30% worse), the most pessimistic about the likelihood of an economic depression (45% probable/very probable, 31% possible/unlikely), and the least optimistic about future improvements in the quality of life (30% better, 45% worse). Dominant conservative themes included: economic pessimism, national security, free enterprise, military strength, less government regulation, law and order, family life, competition, inability to solve chronic problems, and erosion of traditional religious values.

Moderates (N= 478) fall between liberals and conservatives when there are significant differences among groups, leaning more toward liberal or conservative views, depending on the issue.

For each societal trend statement, the number of forum participants and the response percentages are reported for the forecast and impact assessments. When there are significant differences among groups, separate tables are reported: L = liberal, M = moderate, and C = conservative. Otherwise only a single table is reported: L/M/C = forum forecast. The tables are followed by a summary of the main themes reflected in the comments of each group. Directions for completing the survey and a brief technical summary are presented in the appendix.

NOTE: The percentages reported for each forecast and impact statement rarely add up to 100 percent. The difference between the percentages reported and 100 percent represents "no opinion" responses. A description of forum participants appears in Appendix B.

PART I: DEMOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHY

RATE OF U.S. POPULATION GROWTH

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C N= 1,074	34%	30%	36%		17%	29%	48%

If the population increases, there will be:

* A renewed market demand and economic growth.
* Increased pressure on scarce resources and services.

If the population remains stable or decreases, there will be:

* Less unemployment.
* Less strain on land, resources, services, and facilities.
* Reduced demand for goods and services as birth rate approaches zero growth in the United States.
* Erosion of the tax base of cities.
* Seniors competing with youth for jobs and needing support in their declining years.
* Altered racial and social class distributions in American society.
* If the gap is not closed between "haves" and "have-nots," increased social and racial tensions will result. If the gap is closed, a better integrated society will result.

AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF AMERICANS

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C N= 369	1%	9%	88%		4%	34%	56%

Americans will be living longer due to advances in medical technology, personal habits, better methods of coping with stress and improved working and living conditions. The gap between life spans of men and women will narrow as more women enter the workforce. As a result:

* The quality of the life of seniors must be given high priority.
* Seniors must be accorded more of a place in the community, at work, in family.
* Increased services from family and government are needed to help the old avoid dependency in their declining years.
* More attention must be paid to planning retirement, improving health, and maintaining a productive capacity to enable seniors to enjoy their leisure time and insure their economic security.

PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS OVER 55, AS COMPARED WITH THE PERCENTAGE UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C N= 1,074	2%	1%	95%		23%	53%	15%

That proportionately there are more Americans over 55 is a mixed blessing at best. Most are dismayed by negative implications:

* A shift in the market for goods and services resulting in economic dislocations.
* Opportunities for blacks, women, and youth limited further.
* Declining demand for consumer goods, a limit to economic growth.
* Heavy and increasing tax burden on the younger working population.
* Increased strain on social security, health, welfare, housing, and other services.

On the other hand:

* Less crime and less deviant behavior.
* A return to a more traditional American society; more cultural stability.

Needs:

* Ways to maintain vitality of senior citizens.
* Creation of opportunities for using the talents and experience of seniors.
* More flexibility regarding work, leisure, and retirement.

AVERAGE RETIREMENT AGE OF WORKERS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	32%	14%	51%		11%	44%	40%

People will retire later because:

* Political power of seniors will enable them to resist mandatory retirement.
* Inflation will force seniors to keep working or seek part-time work.

People will continue to retire at age 65 or will retire at a younger age because:

* Increased political power will enable them to demand better social security benefits.
* Attractive pension plans and opportunities for leisure will induce early retirement.

NUMBER OF ILLEGAL ALIENS ENTERING THE U.S.

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	22%	28%	43%		40%	24%	20%

With the gap in the standard of living between the United States and other nations so great and increasing, efforts to immigrate will be stepped up; as labor demands protection of their jobs, quota barriers will go up, therefore:

* Unprotected illegal aliens will continue to take menial work and to be exploited.
* As a source of cheap labor, they increase profits but depress wages and drain social welfare benefits.
* There is a danger they will become a nation within a nation, isolated from the mainstream of American society.
* Public reaction (thus far unorganized) will force action.

SHIFT IN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FROM INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL SECTORS TO THE SERVICE SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	4%	10%	83%		17%	45%	26%

The transition to a service economy will produce benefits and cause problems:

* Increased automation in industry and agriculture throws the unskilled out of work.
* Personnel need training to make the transition to jobs in the service area.
* Excessive government spending to produce jobs drains the private sector.
* Unions will resist shifts to protect themselves and their workers.

POPULATION SHIFTS FROM EASTERN AND MIDWESTERN STATES TO SOUTHERN AND WESTERN STATES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 369	10%	12%	74%		19%	56%	25%

Shifts are expected to increase, stabilizing between 1980 and 2000, and resulting in:

* Declines in tax revenues, and loss of jobs and industry from the East and the Midwest.
* An opportunity to alleviate problems of overcrowding, pollution, and the burden of social services in the East.
* Shift to the South and West will expand economic growth and tax revenues of those regions.
* Greater burdens to the South and West on their natural resources and social services.
* Population shifts accelerated by severe winter weather and rising energy costs.
* A saturation of shifts to the Midwest may induce shifts back to the East.

POPULATION SHIFTS FROM URBAN TO NON-URBAN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	25%	22%	51%		12%	32%	48%

Unless urban conditions improve (congestion, business decline, chronic unemployment, tax revenue decline, poverty, violent crime, pollution, blight, high costs, illiteracy, low-quality services), upper middle class families will abandon cities and move to suburbs and rural areas. As a result:

* Cities will face the threat of financial bankruptcy.
* Low-income families, minorities, and the elderly will be left behind.
* Ghettos will continue to deteriorate.

Additional Trend Statements, Demography and Geography

1. If steps are taken to revitalize urban living, such as urban renewal, or if energy shortages force people to live nearer their work, and land costs in the suburbs skyrocket, the trend toward moving to the suburbs may be reversed.
2. Improved technology may enable people to work at home for employers located elsewhere.
3. Reduction in living space for people and increased costs for housing as a percentage of personal income creates concern.

PART II: ECONOMY

GROWTH RATE OF U.S. GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	16%	17%	59%		24%	18%	46%

The GNP will grow at a slower rate than in the past unless:

* We can offset the decline in resources used to create past U.S. wealth.
* We can find ways to restore the free enterprise system.
* We can counter competition from foreign countries with lower wages and lower production costs.

We must, therefore:

* Control inflation and restrain government spending and regulation.
* Find alternative sources of energy and raw materials.
* Increase technological productivity.

The optimistic view is that if inflation is kept at a 3 percent per year average, the GNP will increase.

The limits to the growth argument is that:

* The U.S. is already consuming more than its share of world resources. We must learn to settle for limited economic growth to conserve the world's natural resources.
* Slower growth of the GNP will force us to recognize other benefits besides economic growth, e.g., productivity and benefits of government services. We should look to improvement in real living standards not gains and losses on economic indicators.

Pessimists view real GNP growth as limited to 1 to 2 percent per year, with the balance eaten up by inflation and government spending.

Proponents of "limits to growth" argue that we should control population growth and avoid fluctuations in economic growth and living standard. They like the Scandinavian example of staying on a plateau with slow industrial growth and increased efforts toward conservation of energy and resources.

But Americans are not likely to buy a socialistic society. A free enterprise, consumer-oriented economy is still likely to dominate, and we will continue to consume a disproportionate share of the world's scarce resources until it is no longer possible.

RATE OF INFLATION

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
C/M	N= 780	13%	11%	74%		77%	8%	12%
L	N= 294	34%	11%	52%		48%	15%	34%

The moderate/conservative view is that inflation will increase. Such a trend will be very serious because a balanced economy is essential for survival of the free enterprise system and the American standard of living.

Our economic problems (no longer under our control because of the way the world economy affects us) will be led by inflation. The inflation/recession cycle will continue until controls are exercised.

But what controls will work? Economists do not have the answer. Government controls are not producing desired results.

The liberal view is that government, business, unions, and nations will form a social compact to control inflation. Also, groups of taxpayers and consumers will organize to hold government, business, and labor accountable.

Inflation hurts middle income, young, and old the most.

RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 294	41%	40%	19%		28%	19%	44%
M/C	N= 780	22%	47%	31%		48%	22%	24%

Both groups viewed unemployment as serious, but inflation as more serious. They saw the impact as follows:

* To keep welfare and crime rates under control, the federal government will create jobs and training programs for the unemployed.
* To provide some other alternatives, government will subsidize jobs and training programs in private industry.
* Limits to economic growth may make job sharing necessary.
* Fluctuations in unemployment will continue to occur as: 1. businesses relocate; 2. technology and automation advance; and 3. the birth rate declines.
* Legislation such as the Humphrey-Hawkins bill and CETA-type job creation and training programs have the potential for achieving a better balance between inflation and unemployment.
* Demands for tax relief will result in a net loss of government jobs and limit employment opportunities.
* Inaccuracy of unemployment statistics makes forecasting difficult.

VALUE OF THE DOLLAR IN EXCHANGE FOR FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Two very different views were expressed:

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 142	29%	20%	39%		30%	12%	42%
M/C	N= 227	65%	10%	15%		64%	10%	16%

Both groups noted that the number of affluent nations in the world is increasing and that the declining value of the dollar in world markets reflects the growing economic strength of other nations.

The liberals feel we will continue to be among the most wealthy nations in the world and that the dollar is now undervalued as a result of speculation and manipulation in foreign money markets.

The conservatives fear the American standard of living will decline as developing nations strengthen their bargaining position in world trade. Our economic problems will no longer be under our control because we are now affected by the world economy and dependent on foreign energy.

Other points made were:

* Now that we have given away our technological know-how, we are at a disadvantage with countries that have natural resources.
* American workers and unions have increased wages without increasing productivity.
* We must reduce our dependence on foreign energy, control inflation and government spending, and improve our balance of trade to restore confidence in the dollar.

AVERAGE RATE OF PRODUCTIVITY OF AMERICAN WORKERS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 288	27%	25%	43%		39%	12%	40%
C	N= 77	68%	21%	11%		78%	7%	13%

The liberal view blames our current inflation on the declining productivity of U.S. workers. The U.S. may be only thirty years behind the British in achieving a state in which this situation severely limits economic growth. But as conditions get worse, the American people may recognize the wisdom of the work ethic and reverse the trend. As automation advances, so will worker productivity.

The conservative view blames government spending and bureaucratic inefficiency for constraining productivity. Government regulations which increase overhead costs are passed on to consumers, and the cost for programs such as affirmative action, energy conservation, and environmental protection is too high. Unions do not help to increase worker productivity.

We should get back to the work ethic, upgrading the job skills of workers and recognizing and rewarding productivity.

PROFIT MARGINS OF CORPORATIONS NECESSARY TO ACCUMULATE CAPITAL AND YIELD ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RETURNS TO STOCKHOLDERS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
M/C	N= 227	26%	34%	30%		35%	34%	31%
L	N= 142	8%	42%	41%		19%	40%	41%

From the moderate-conservative point of view, it is profits and increased earnings which motivate productivity and economic growth; therefore, without these, it will be increasingly difficult for American business to compete with foreign business. If government does not help, the American free enterprise system will not survive. Business is encouraged by the recent change in tax laws on capital gains.

The liberal view is that corporate profit margins of large multinational corporations are excessive, and unless corporations are willing to be more open about their profits and share their gains more equitably through higher wages for workers and lower prices for consumers, increasing pressure will be exerted on government to redress the imbalance.

PER CAPITA REAL INCOME OF AMERICANS ADJUSTED FOR COST OF LIVING

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	41%	19%	35%		43%	19%	29%

Although the majority evaluate the trend as unfavorable, two opposing value positions are reflected in the judgments.

The economic growth argument is that real income will increase only if:

* Inflation is controlled at moderate levels.

* The U.S. is not overly dependent on foreign energy and natural resources.
* Productivity of U.S. workers increases more rapidly than wages.
* Senior citizens can maintain themselves in retirement.

The limits to growth argument is that:

* Increases in the real income of Americans are unrealistic and inequitable. We already consume too large a share of the world's resources.
* Rising income would increase consumption, create shortages, and damage the environment.
* More Americans working to increase family income would adversely affect family life.
* A stable limited economic growth would be healthier for American society.

Additional Trend Statements, Economy:

1. Increased concentration of economic power in large, corporate conglomerates will have unfavorable effects.
2. Increased availability of consumer credit contributes to inflation.
3. Increased control of American corporations by foreigners has mixed effects.
4. A favorable trend seen in the transition of the American economy to a post-industrial, information-centered economy.
5. An unfavorable trend is the decrease in the number of small businesses as a percentage of total business activity.

PART III: ENERGY AND ECOLOGY

U.S. RELIANCE ON FOREIGN NATIONS FOR ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 294	51%	14%	31%		29%	15%	51%
M/C	N= 780	28%	17%	53%		54%	14%	29%

From the liberal point of view, we must realize and recognize:

* The world's diminishing supply of energy and natural resources.
* We can pursue a policy of international cooperation or one of isolation and self-sufficiency.
* International cooperation will be needed to explore alternative energy sources in remote areas of the world and in outer space.
* Raising energy prices will be inequitable. Rationing of energy may be required.

The conservative view is that:

* The U.S. will be able to negotiate more favorable trade agreements with the OPEC nations as they come to depend on us and our allies for technology and equipment to modernize their nations.
* Or we might form alliances with other advanced nations to develop alternative cost-effective energy sources or with countries like Mexico, Canada, and China which might compete with OPEC.
* The technological advances possible in the use of solar energy, fusion, wind power, geothermal energy, and water power have been underrated. It will be possible to develop alternative sources of energy by the year 2000.

VOLUNTARY ADOPTION OF SIMPLER LIFESTYLES TO COPE WITH ECONOMIC SCARCITY AND TO CONSERVE RESOURCES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 772	8%	34%	55%		19%	22%	51%
C	N= 302	12%	49%	37%		42%	22%	29%

Small is beautiful is the slogan for voluntary adoption of simpler lifestyles, in the liberal view. A shift in values is coming in the future, more as a matter of necessity than of voluntary choice.

The conservatives view voluntary adoption of simpler lifestyles as romantic nonsense, impractical, unworkable, and potentially dangerous. Only a depression, energy crisis, or war will motivate the American people to sacrifice economic security and a high standard of living.

PROBABILITY OF THE U.S. ACHIEVING ITS ENERGY GOALS WITHOUT SACRIFICING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOBS.

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C N= 369	43%	12%	36%		43%	10%	37%

It will decrease because the U.S. will not be able to achieve its energy goals without sacrificing economic growth and jobs because we are dependent on abundant supplies of low-cost energy. Help would be in the form of:

* Less government pressure for ecological concerns.
* More research into alternative supplies of energy.

It will increase because consensus and commitment will be achieved on a new national energy policy. Public sacrifices will buy us time to achieve research breakthroughs on alternative sources of energy. American inventive genius will produce the needed scientific advances before the year 2000 if a national priority comparable to national defense and space exploration is given.

International cooperation will help. New energy sources will stimulate the economy and jobs will be more available.

Our dependence on the automobile will continue to be a problem, since technological breakthroughs in cost-effective alternatives to gasoline are unlikely in the near future.

PERCENTAGE OF U.S. ENERGY REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED BY RENEWABLE AND ESSENTIALLY INEXHAUSTIBLE SOURCES OF ENERGY.

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C N= 369	12%	9%	73%		18%	5%	70%

Realistically we can expect only 10 to 20 percent of our energy requirements to be satisfied by renewable and essentially inexhaustible sources of energy by the year 2000, first through small-scale technology, using solar, wind, and water power. The problems caused by our dependence on the automobile are our greatest hurdle.

PERCENTAGE OF U.S. GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT SPENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M N= 242	6%	19%	72%		10%	22%	64%
C N= 127	17%	32%	50%		35%	18%	44%

Environmental protection will continue to be expensive but:

The liberal view is that an increasing percentage of the GNP will have to be spent with taxpayers, businesses, and consumers sharing the costs. The public is becoming increasingly convinced of the importance of protecting the environment.

The conservative view is that people will be increasingly concerned about the high costs of excessive regulation and will press the government to redress the imbalance. Since property rights of individuals will be abused to protect natural resources, there may be a reversal from ecological and environmental concerns back toward economic growth, development of natural resources, and protection of private ownership.

EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF CHEMICAL POLLUTANTS, SOLID WASTES, RADIATION, AND OTHER TOXIC SUBSTANCES PRESENT IN U.S. FOOD, LAND, AIR, OR WATER

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	8%	14%	76%		18%	6%	73%

The environment will continue to be cleaned only if current laws are enforced. A plateau will be reached where improvements in health will be balanced against economic costs. Gradually businesses will become more conscious of their responsibility and cooperate voluntarily.

GOVERNMENT PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, e.g., FARMLANDS, FORESTS, WILDERNESS AREAS, AND WATERWAYS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	7%	20%	72%		15%	18%	64%

Government will have to mediate between financial interests wanting to use resources for economic development and environmentalists wanting to maintain an ecologically healthy environment. They will have to mediate also between expanded demand for recreation areas, the need for new dams, etc. and the effects on plants and wildlife, needed farmland, and the property rights of individual citizens. Government may turn back toward economic growth from protection of ecological and environmental concerns.

DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL-SCALE TECHNOLOGIES TO SUPPORT SELF-SUFFICIENT LIVING IN AN ECOLOGICALLY HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 369	1%	19%	65%		9%	9%	64%

Development will increase due to inflation, and such a trend will have the advantage of improving mental and physical health, but it will still be a peripheral trend rather than a mainstream movement unless shortages reduce the nation to a survival economy.

PART IV: POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE U.S. GNP

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
M/C	N= 780	13%	10%	75%		38%	42%	17%
L	N= 294	25%	16%	57%		20%	41%	35%

The conservatives view the demands for government services as exceeding the nation's economic capacity to supply those services. Bureaucratic regulation is wasteful, and too many government workers are being paid too much to accomplish too little. They are interfering too much with productive activity and must be controlled.
The liberals view government spending as necessary to cope with national problems. This is the only protection the public has against concentrations of economic power and abuses in private enterprise. Although social welfare programs are often inefficient, they are the only source of help available to the economically disadvantaged.

WILLINGNESS OF TAXPAYERS TO SUPPORT TRADITIONAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 1,074	66%	26%	6%		23%	37%	35%

The dilemma is that taxpayers demand more services, but are unwilling to pay higher taxes to get them. Taxpayers, caught in the economic crunch, will hold government agencies increasingly accountable. Better programs and improved operations may result. The first to suffer will be the disadvantaged. Some see a danger that human services will be cut, while military defense budgets will not be cut.

GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
M/C	N= 288	12%	15%	73%		53%	26%	18%
L	N= 77	31%	17%	47%		25%	38%	32%

The conservatives concede that a certain amount of government regulation is inevitable; however:

* Regulation must be counterbalanced by free enterprise and protection of personal freedom.
* Excessive regulation is inflationary and burdens taxpayers with rising government costs, consumers with rising prices, and businesses with limited economic growth.
* The taxpayers' revolt shows they think government has gone too far.
* People are becoming too dependent on government services.
* Public resistance to regulation will cause government reassessment of policies.

The liberals view increased government regulation as necessary to mediate between demands of special interest groups.

* Government regulation of private enterprise will ebb and flow. Business will resist and win some; environmental, conservation, and consumer groups will exert more pressure.

GOVERNMENT PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS FROM POTENTIALLY HARMFUL AND UNSAFE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	7%	18%	74%		14%	31%	52%

Those who favor the trend say that:

* Government has an obligation to protect consumers.
* Advances in technology and new products and services need monitoring to minimize adverse effects on consumers.
* Differences between government research and industry research diminishes the credibility of industry's researchers.

Those who disapprove say that:

* Government cannot insure Americans a risk-free life.
* Government cannot do the job alone; consumers must be alert.
* Excessive regulation diminishes the incentive of business to invest in new products.
* Consumers do not need more regulation; they need to make better use of what is now available.
* More private consumer groups will reduce the need for expanding government regulation and protection.

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY IN PREPARING, DEBATING, AND DECIDING ON NEW LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	27%	51%	19%		58%	16%	18%

* Reforms are necessary for elected representatives to function more efficiently.
* Each new law makes government bureaucracy more cumbersome and inefficient.
* Some streamlining of the legislative process is expected.
* Grass roots pressure might help or bureaucracy might prevail.

INFLUENCE OF ORGANIZED SPECIAL INTEREST LOBBIES ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND SERVICES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	7%	30%	62%		47%	31%	16%

* The influence of special interest groups is disproportionate to the numbers they represent because they contribute to political campaigns and have good advertising methods.
* Interest groups might set up a barrier to accountability in public policy-making, insulating voters from participation in the democratic process.
* Lobbies with broader social goals may reverse the current trend.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND INFLUENCE ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 242	8%	27%	62%		23%	18%	53%
C	N= 127	27%	39%	34%		54%	18%	25%

In the liberal view:

* Voluntary participation seems to be declining; politics for politicians, bureaucrats, and lobbyists seems to be growing.
* The tax revolt might cause citizens to pay more attention and become more involved.
* Organizational structures and mechanisms are needed to support more involvement. People need to sense that they can influence government decisions. Goal setting at the state and community levels, grass roots participation in framing party platforms, and use of interactive cable TV for opinion polls may help.

In the conservative view:

* The same trend is noted, but they feel it is because bureaucracy and complex government makes the situation worse.
* Special interest groups also add to apathy and indifference.
* More traditional party politics and representative democracy may return.

PART V: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

ADEQUACY OF WORLD SUPPLIES OF FOOD, ENERGY, AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT WORLD POPULATION GROWTH

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 294	49%	21%	27%		48%	18%	30%
M	N= 478	60%	16%	22%		61%	10%	26%
C	N= 302	73%	16%	10%		73%	12%	12%

The liberal view emphasizes the moral responsibility of the U.S. and other developed nations to share the world's resources with developing nations. International cooperation and long-range planning are needed.

Although we can use technology and our productive capacity to limit population growth and produce enough food and energy, we are playing power politics by continuing to control the resources and widen the gap between the developed and the developing nations.

The moderate view agrees there is a possibility of a technological solution. They agree that talk about resource scarcity is designed to protect the interests of developed nations at the expense of the third world.

A source of continued concern will be the loss of productive farmland to other uses and the waste and destruction of the environment caused by pesticides and other chemical contaminants. We will develop synthetic resources, and it will become increasingly economical to recycle waste materials.

Conservatives view worldwide resources as limited. It will be impossible to feed all the hungry in the world until developing nations limit population growth. The seeds of global disaster are in the making as the crises of population growth, food, and energy converge.

Developing nations with natural resources will form coalitions to counter-balance the power of developed nations and demand a larger share of the world's resources. As they industrialize, they will consume more natural resources and will become increasingly competitive in their attempt to gain control over scarce resources.

We can look forward to war, political instability, social unrest and terrorism as the gap widens between the "haves" and the "have-nots."

The U.S. will have much less control over the world's resources in the future and will need to maintain its military strength to insure national security.

GAP IN INCOME AND STANDARD OF LIVING BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 369	44%	17%	34%		42%	13%	39%

The gap will narrow despite political unrest and religious values that conflict with population control in the emerging countries because:

* Due to their access to scarce natural resources, some will emerge through technology and industrialization into "developed" nations.
* Nations already developed will have to invest more heavily in developing countries.
* We are now aware that to allow the gap to widen further would create the kind of tension, resentment, and instability that might lead to war.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 255	4%	16%	77%		13%	7%	74%
C	N= 85	7%	45%	45%		45%	8%	42%

The liberal-moderate view is that international cooperation among nations will be essential for survival; wisdom dictates that nations recognize their interdependence; and more cooperative arrangements will emerge.

Progress has been gradual but visible. Cooperation will speed up as increased unity among third world nations forces more of a dialogue between developed and developing nations.

In the short run, improvements in the living standard in developing nations will be at the expense of developed nations. In the long run, expanded world markets will improve the quality of life for all nations.

The conservative view is more skeptical about increased cooperation. The few attempts at cooperation have been superficial and have failed to address the root causes of national and world problems. There will be increased competition for the U.S. to assume a world leadership role.

For the U.S. to assume leadership, we will need the involvement of religious, business, trade, and voluntary organizations and more national unity.

INFLUENCE OF UNITED NATIONS IN PRESERVING PEACE AND WORLD ORDER

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 275	28%	51%	17%		45%	26%	19%
C	N= 90	51%	46%	2%		68%	18%	4%

The liberal and moderate view is that little will change. They hope that a strengthened U.N. will mature into a more viable forum for resolving conflicts between nations. But there will be problems:

* As third world nations begin to dominate the U.N., the major powers will become alienated.
* Reluctance to use the U.N. for police actions diminishes its effectiveness.
* More and more, bilateral and third-world negotiations bypass the U.N. Only the pressure of world opinion to use the U.N. will reverse the trend.

* International cooperation achieved through the U.N. is more economic than political.

Conservatives view the U.N., as presently constituted, as merely symbolic rather than functional. Increasingly dominated by the special interests of Communist and third world nations, it is becoming merely a forum for dissemination of propaganda.

The third world countries' influence is disproportionate, and U.S. influence has declined, raising questions about U.S. involvement in the future. The U.N. lacks the strength to become an effective peacemaker.

PROBABILITY OF U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN A MAJOR WAR

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 294	48%	35%	11%		16%	8%	67%
M	N= 478	28%	43%	24%		37%	11%	44%
C	N= 302	22%	38%	34%		48%	10%	32%

The liberal view considers our involvement in a major war unlikely, since it is unthinkable, given the threat of nuclear destruction and annihilation. They are more concerned about the likelihood of internal strife, revolutions, or war between third world nations that will involve the U.S. in a conventional war. They see the dangers as:

* A war triggered by accident; perhaps terrorists who are resorting to terrorist activity to achieve their goals.
* The U.S. will not be the agressor, but may be forced to respond because of international commitments to allies or threats to national security.

The moderates agree that war is unthinkable, and the major deterrent is the assurance of total mutual destruction if nuclear weapons are employed. They think detente is the only strategy for us. Eventually we will, with the Soviet Union and China, stabilize relationships.

The conservative view is that the only deterrent to war is military strength, advanced weapons systems, and a cohesive NATO alliance. If the U.S. is unable to maintain a favorable strategic balance of power (due to strategic arms limitations talks) it will be forced to back down or risk nuclear destruction.

In a world that is largely competitive, nationalism rather than internationalism will prevail. The major threats to world peace will be:

* Political instability resulting from national shortages of food, energy, land, etc.
* Communist or third world exploitation of political instability caused by shortages.
* U.S. reluctance to take military action when necessary due to the Vietnam experience.
* U.S. reluctance to increase military spending because it raises taxes, fuels inflation, and diverts money from a productive economy and social services.
* Increasing Soviet military strength and decreasing American strength.
* Unpredictability of third world nations.

STRENGTH OF U.S. NATIONAL DEFENSE AND MILITARY FORCES COMPARED TO THE STRENGTH OF THE SOVIET UNION

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 255	26%	48%	20%		27%	27%	34%
C	N= 85	47%	46%	4%		53%	27%	9%

The liberal view is that there will be some shift in strategic alternatives, but the relative military capacity will be equivalent. The warnings and statistical data which suggest we are lagging behind the Soviets in strength may not be an issue when each country has the technical capacity to exterminate the other.

There will be pressure to reduce taxes and a reluctance to spend for national security. We will have to rely more on the NATO alliance and our flexible advanced weapons systems with sufficient retaliatory power to deter the Russian threat. Increasing pressure from taxpayers will force more economical and cost-effective military strategies for national security in the future.

The conservative and moderate view is that we may be naive in thinking the Soviets have abandoned their goal of world domination. The danger is that we may find ourselves unprepared to respond to the Soviet threat and have to back down on issues vital to national security.

PERCENTAGE OF FEDERAL BUDGET SPENT ON NATIONAL DEFENSE

(Forecast)			Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N=	365	35%	34%	28%		29%	28%	36%

There was general agreement that:

* Defense spending as a percentage of GNP will probably remain about the same.
* Although public support for national defense has decreased, an effective military lobby and apparent threats to national security will tend to stabilize military spending at levels geared to economic growth.
* Fluctuations will occur depending on the current status of U.S. relationships with the Soviets.
* It may be necessary to consume more money to maintain the status quo as costs rise.

PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS ENGAGED IN FULL-TIME MILITARY SERVICE

(Forecast)			Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N=	365	55%	29%	13%		19%	27%	41%

The majority agree that a reduction will have a favorable impact. The factors are:

* Successful negotiation of an arms agreement with the Soviet Union and the effectiveness of modern weapons systems will make it possible to reduce the size of conventional forces.
* There will be a smaller percentage of youth in the 18 to 25 age group.
* The technical nature of today's army requires better trained volunteers. Women enlistees might help, but the pool of literate, highly motivated youth for the military is small.
* American taxpayers are reluctant to support a large, full-time military force during peacetime.

Others argue that:

* Reductions in military forces will be extremely dangerous.
* Military service or other government service is a good experience, and it offers an alternative to high youth unemployment and excessive post-secondary education.
* With fewer civilian jobs available and an effective military lobby, the trend could reverse.
* The nation may be forced to reinstate the draft. If it does, it might include both men and women who are mentally and physically qualified. Options will be provided in either public service jobs or military service.
* Renewal of a peacetime draft will meet with stiff resistance from young voters unless war seems imminent.

PART VI: LAW AND JUSTICE

ROLE OF THE COURTS IN DECIDING SOCIAL POLICY ISSUES

(Forecast)			Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
C	N=	302	13%	20%	64%		42%	33%	16%
L/M	N=	772	15%	27%	52%		31%	33%	26%

The conservative view is that the courts will decide social policy issues, although in recent years, due to a conservative shift, the Supreme Court has tended to stand back.

During eras of rapid social change (such as the past two decades), the courts inevitably assume a more active role in determining social policy. When

minorities are frustrated by legislative inaction, they will increasingly confront the majority through the courts to force a decision, and the courts will assert their authority and provide leadership in determining social policy.

The liberal view is that if the courts become too conservative in their decisions, minorities will resist the law and possibly resort to violence. The complexity of American society and changing social values leaves many moral issues unsettled. With the decline in morality, fewer people are willing to assume responsibility for their behavior.

As a consequence, people will rely more on litigation to protect their human rights. Organized special interests, dissatisfied with the outcomes of the legislative process, will use the courts to shift legislation in their direction.

Activists seem to be shifting from the courts back toward the legislative and executive branches, feeling that the judicial system has overstepped its role in determining social policy. Since judges are appointed not elected, they are not politically accountable to the public. In any case, courts were designed to interpret and apply the law, not to create it. Liberals feel:

* The courts will continue to be a major force in social change, but we will depend more on the legislative branch to formulate policy.
* The courts will probably exercise more selectivity in hearing cases and stay with interpretation of laws rather than setting precedents.
* As society becomes more complex and more laws are passed, the volume of court cases will increase; interpretation of ambiguous and complex issues will be more difficult.
* Lawyers will benefit, but will be costly to the public.
* There is a need for a better mechanism than the courts for protecting human rights. If none is found, people will resort to litigation.

PERCENTAGE OF U.S. POPULATION IMPRISONED AS CRIMINAL OFFENDERS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 369	23%	50%	27%		34%	25%	24%

Most agreed that there would be no change, but opinion was divided on whether the population would increase or decrease.

The conservative view is that:

* The more criminals behind bars, the better.
* The courts are too lenient, favoring criminals rather than victims, and releasing criminals too soon, only to have them repeat the same crimes.
* Violence and deviant behavior portrayed in the media continues to stimulate more of the same.
* Stiffer sentences are now being demanded. An increase in violent crime will probably result in the reinstatement of the mandatory death sentence.
* As confidence in rehabilitation to reduce crime declines, law and order will be emphasized.

The liberal view is that:

* Imprisonment and the death sentence do not effectively deter crime.
* When unemployment and poverty is high, crime and violence increases.
* A lower birth rate will mean a lower crime rate, but the courts and the prison system will not expand rapidly enough to keep pace with the number of criminal offenders.
* With already overcrowded prisons, we will have to build new ones or figure out other ways of dealing with the problem.
* Increasingly we need to research, test, and implement more promising alternatives to the present system--perhaps prevention.
* Policy decision makers are responding to symptoms rather than the underlying problems causing social unrest.
* Unless social conditions improve, crime among urban minority youth who are chronically unemployed will increase, giving rise to the charge of racism as the prison population continues to be comprised of disproportionate numbers of minority people.

SUCCESSFUL REHABILITATION OF CRIMINAL OFFENDERS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 275	8%	62%	24%		43%	20%	24%
C	N= 90	18%	74%	4%		78%	11%	6%

The forum forecast for successful rehabilitation is discouraging. Most feel there will be no change, and the conservatives are most skeptical about finding successful ways to cope. Prisons breed more crime rather than deter it. Imprisonment is expensive; and although prisons punish and isolate criminals, they do not rehabilitate them. Research and development has not produced much understanding of this complex area. Eventually new methods of social behavior control will have to be invented as a substitute for imprisonment.

UNIFORMITY OF SENTENCES FOR CRIMINAL OFFENDERS CONVICTED OF EQUALLY SERIOUS CRIMES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N=1,074	4%	36%	53%		25%	15%	47%

There is consensus that more uniform sentencing is needed, and there are forces pushing in this direction.

Lower rates of conviction for high-income criminals will make uniformity largely ineffective in deterring white collar crime, but it will be felt by low-income criminal offenders convicted of serious crimes.

Liberals and conservatives alike feel the criminal justice system is in a state of chaos, and uniform sentencing will increase equity and order in the judicial process.

Those who favor uniform sentencing feel that more certain punishment will deter crime and that the justice system will be more equitable, economical, and swift.

Conservatives favor uniform sentencing because they believe the inconsistent treatment in the courts reflects their reluctance to make decisions. This has slowed the process of criminal justice and resulted in leniency.

Liberals favor it because they hope it will reverse some of the inequities which enable the rich to get lighter sentences than the poor.

But others express skepticism about its feasibility and even desirability. They say:

* At the national level, it will be impossible because "justice" is decentralized. State and local judges will resist threats to their autonomy.
* Uniform sentences diminish the discretionary power of judges and eliminate consideration of human and situational factors.
* Our judicial system is extremely resistant to change, and it will be difficult to get political support for uniform sentencing.

LENGTH OF PRISON SENTENCES OF REPEATED OFFENDERS CONVICTED OF SERIOUS CRIMES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 369	7%	24%	59%		17%	26%	43%

The public is increasingly demanding longer sentences for repeated offenders of serious crimes. Few look to jails for rehabilitaion. Incarceration will be expensive.

PROSECUTION AND CONVICTION OF CRIMINAL OFFENDERS FOR "WHITE COLLAR" CRIMES, e.g., FRAUD, EMBEZZLEMENT, BRIBERY

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 275	0%	29%	66%		18%	8%	62%
C	N= 90	7%	46%	47%		49%	8%	39%

Note the big differences in the forecast. The liberals and moderates thought that white-collar crime would increase and that criminals would be prosecuted and convicted.

* Opportunities for fraud increase as the nation becomes more dependent on computers.
* Unfortunately the country is apathetic about punishing white collar crimes; they do not yet realize how much it costs each person.
* Resistance to prosecution of people in high-status positions is expected.

COOPERATION BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND CITIZENS IN PREVENTION AND DETECTION OF CRIME

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 255	5%	25%	67%		17%	9%	66%
C	N= 85	15%	48%	34%		49%	11%	33%

Cooperation in high crime areas will become a matter of survival. The public will increasingly demand more protection for victims and cooperate in apprehending and prosecuting criminals.

In contrast to the liberal viewpoint above is the conservative view that a major change in attitude in urban ghettos is needed. They emphasize the lack of trust between the police and ghetto people. Unless more effective crime prevention methods are developed, middle-income families will continue to flee from the city.

The process of prevention probably has to start in the schools where children will learn respect for the law.

There is some concern that cooperation between citizens and police will give rise to vigilantism.

PART VII: EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

EQUITY ACHIEVED IN TAX RATES OF HIGH-INCOME, MIDDLE-INCOME, AND LOW-INCOME PERSONS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 77	9%	32%	47%		27%	14%	44%
M	N= 198	8%	52%	34%		30%	24%	34%
C	N= 90	26%	50%	18%		63%	18%	11%

Opinion is really divided on this issue because taxation policies are politically determined, and equitable taxation is interpreted in the context of one's values.

Middle-income taxpayers feel high-income people should share the burden more equitably and low-income people should be less of a burden on government spending.

High-income people will continue to dominate the political process which determines tax laws. Since they resist a tax system which reduces incentives for capital development, they will not change the tax structure until forced to.

Right now, upper-income groups are protecting their advantaged position; middle-income groups are exerting pressure through tax revolt; and low-income groups are advocating redistribution of income through expanded social welfare programs.

The only alternative suggested for tax reform is a structure which taxes more heavily during the high-earning years while guaranteeing a stable, moderate income in the declining years.

EMPHASIS OF WORK PERFORMANCE, COMPETENCE, AND MERIT IN SALARY AND PROMOTIONAL DECISIONS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 772	14%	24%	59%		23%	12%	59%
C	N= 302	31%	30%	38%		46%	17%	33%

The liberal view is that:

* Public demands for efficiency in government will exert pressure on public employees for improved performance.
* Employers will have a buyer's market, so they will be more selective.
* Professionals will be under more pressure to institute mandatory continuing education and performance evaluations for periodic recertification.

Conservatives forecast:

* The obstacles to performance evaluation will be formidable.
* Efforts in civil service will be resisted by employees.
* Affirmative action and lifting of mandator retirement will make it necessary to justify firings. Grievance hearings and lawsuits will make it harder to discharge employees. Unions and the civil service systems support job security and seniority rather than rewarding the best workers.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO COMPENSATE FOR PAST DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	21%	25%	52%		13%	24%	56%

The majority view is that the equal rights movement and affirmative action will achieve equality of opportunity for women by the early 1980s.

* Increasing percentages of women will occupy many roles traditionally occupied by men, be advanced to responsible positions, and receive higher pay with more equitable compensation.
* As equality is achieved, the need for affirmative action will diminish.

But:

* A reversal of the current trend is possible if the number of women seeking jobs exceeds job opportunities. Affirmitave action for women may be seen as reverse discrimination against others.
* That may create a male, senior citizen, and minority backlash against women's rights. This will be exacerbated if the economy does not improve and increase job opportunities.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO COMPENSATE FOR PAST DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MINORITIES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 294	38%	28%	34%		12%	28%	56%
M	N= 478	36%	26%	38%		11%	36%	47%
C	N= 302	37%	32%	31%		29%	39%	29%

Opinion is equally divided as to whether affirmative action will increase or decrease in order to compensate for past discrimination. It is, therefore, difficult to interpret the meaning of the majority assessment that affirmative action will have a favorable to mixed impact in the future.

* There is a growing sense that efforts to force adjustments have not been effective.
* Equality of opportunity is now much more appealing and considered more consistent with the work ethic.
* There is a conservative backlash to affirmative action among the middle class.
* People argue that it is not possible to compensate for the past; one can only guarantee fairness now and in the future.

USE OF QUOTAS TO ACHIEVE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION GOALS IN EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	48%	28%	20%		16%	36%	41%

Attitudes are more negative toward the use of quotas than use of affirmative action goals. Quotas are not seen as politically economical, and they will be resisted because they are viewed as destroying fairness and excellence, and rewarding less qualified people at the expense of better qualified people.

PERCENTAGE OF U.S. POPULATION SUBSISTING ON WELFARE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 75	59%	16%	20%		23%	8%	63%
M	N= 180	24%	34%	37%		56%	12%	23%
C	N= 85	6%	29%	64%		79%	12%	9%

The liberal view is that the taxpayers revolt will reduce government spending on social welfare programs. Optimistically, economic recovery will expand employment opportunities, and job creation and training programs will reduce the rate of unemployment. Stricter eligibility laws will be enacted and efforts made to require people, who are able, to take jobs.

The conservatives say that, until the current welfare system is reformed, people will have no incentive to get off welfare. Higher birthrates among low-income families and inflation will increase the number on welfare. With limited economic growth, employment for minority youth, women, the old, and the handicapped is not likely to improve.

Reform of the welfare system will be forced because middle-class taxpayers will not be able to support increased welfare roles even at a minimum standard of living.

LIKELIHOOD OF A GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME TO INSURE PEOPLE UNABLE TO WORK OF A REASONABLE MINIMUM STANDARD OF LIVING

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	6%	31%	61%		21%	32%	39%

The more assurance that only those unable to support themselves will benefit, the more acceptable is the proposal. It is seen as an extension of welfare, but with much less red tape.

Those in the minority argue that:

* Its passage is not likely during the next 20 years.
* Increasing emphasis on the work ethic and a conservative trend makes such proposals untimely and unlikely.
* Support may be gained for guaranteeing jobs, but those who support the free-enterprise system over socialism will oppose such programs as bad for the individual and society.

PART VIII: RELIGION AND HUMANISM

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS REGULARLY ATTENDING RELIGIOUS SERVICES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N=1,074	38%	32%	27%		26%	45%	29%

There is some agreement that church attendance will decline, but less agreement whether the trend is good or bad.

Recent polls indicate membership is declining in mainline churches, but increasing in conservative, fundamentalist churches.

Self-love seems to have displaced love of others, and the pursuit of happiness has replaced social responsibility. Accompanying the decline in church membership and attendance is a decline in charitable contributions and voluntary service.

An increasingly affluent, materialistic, and hedonistic society, complete with TV, sports, and outdoor recreation, is too much competition for religion.

Economic adversity, personal insecurity, and frustration with life may send people back to the church, but only if religious institutions reform their

approach to make them more relevant to contemporary values and lifestyles. An aging population will be more inclined to seek meaning in life through the church.

To survive, the churches should:

* Minimize doctrinal differences to broaden their appeal.
* Take a stand on social and moral issues, maintaining a delicate balance between spiritual concerns and social activism.
* Recognize that as the mysteries of the universe unfold and more is known about the human personality, people will feel less need for religious experience.

EXTENT TO WHICH AMERICANS DERIVE MEANING IN LIFE FROM SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 77	13%	21%	58%		6%	16%	60%
M	N= 198	24%	41%	31%		26%	26%	30%
C	N= 90	33%	34%	27%		41%	16%	26%

Liberals and moderates predict a revival of spiritual and religious life, but their views differ on whether the trend is toward secular humanism or traditional religious experiences. Liberals see the movement toward experimental new forms.

Moderates expect a revitalization of formal religion and traditional spiritual values. But they emphasize the need for religious institutions to be responsive to the new values and changing lifestyles of the people.

Conservatives lament the erosion of religious values, the lack of moral commitment, the decline of social responsibility, and the lack of respect for the law. They see the younger generation embracing religious fads without substance.

TIME AND MONEY AMERICANS VOLUNTARILY CONTRIBUTE TO RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIAL CAUSES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 369	30%	41%	21%		37%	16%	35%

Those who think contributions of time and money will decrease cite:

* Public apathy and a lack of involvement which will leave a vacuum into which government agencies will move.
* Inflation makes it hard to devote either time or money to causes (people have less of both).

Those who have hope say that people may have to become more selective in their philanthropy, and they will. Mass media will increase public awareness of human needs; and although women will have less time to serve as volunteers because they are in the work force, seniors will take their place.

ABORTION AS A METHOD OF BIRTH CONTROL

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N=1,074	20%	18%	60%		22%	26%	43%

The majority think that abortion will increase and will have a favorable impact on the quality of life.

Positively, abortion is seen to:

* Offer the ultimate solution, when all else fails, in controlling population growth.
* Offer teenagers and large, low-income families a way to prevent the birth of unwanted children.
* Offer a preferred alternative to irresponsible parenting, child abuse, and neglect.

* Save the lives of mothers and prevent births of genetically defective children.
* Be preferable to the horrors of illegal abortion.

Antiabortion forces oppose it on religious and moral grounds. They view it as:

* Unethical and immoral; a license for immoral sexual behavior.
* A bad alternative to humane, safe, less costly alternatives such as sex education, moral education, family planning, and voluntary sterilization.

PREMARITAL AND EXTRAMARITAL SEX BETWEEN CONSENTING ADULTS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 75	12%	20%	65%		17%	31%	40%
M	N= 180	3%	23%	72%		25%	40%	22%
C	N= 85	0%	20%	79%		48%	31%	14%

Moderates believe the sexual revolution will continue, with premarital sex more open. Marital and family relationships will become weaker and more transient. Hopefully, marriages will be based more on the desire to be together than on sex, but there is also a question of the erosion of moral values.

Liberals believe the sexual revolution has already taken place. Sex is increasingly expressed more as a natural function than as a moral decision. With effective methods of birth control, sex will be more permissible, except where partners are limited by their religion.

Conservatives believe premarital and extramarital sex weakens the distinction between lust and love, turning sex into a popular pastime. Promiscuous behavior is more open and is creating much social misery. Many women are exploited in such relationships. They hope for a reversal in this trend and more enduring marital relationships.

PARTICIPATION IN PERSON-CENTERED GROWTH GROUPS TO LEARN TECHNIQUES FOR SELF-ACTUALIZATION AND COPING WITH STRESS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	11%	20%	59%		7%	25%	48%

On the positive side, they note:

* Growth groups reduce client dependence on professional mental health services.
* People who can satisfy their own needs and cope with stress live more productive, satisfying lives. With increasing stress, more programs to help people cope will be required.

On the negative side:

* Growth groups are seen as a passing fad--a waste of time for the strong, an ego trip for the weak.
* They are narcissistic and induce self-centered introspection at the expense of social responsibility.
* They have a weak hold on reality.

Growth groups may have peaked in popularity, but they will continue to experience some gains supported by the emotionally deprived who are searching for human interaction and in-depth involvement.

INFLUENCE OF EASTERN RELIGIONS ON AMERICAN VALUES AND LIFESTYLES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 369	19%	46%	25%		7%	25%	33%

This item had the most no opinion responses (about 15 percent).

Those who answered feel Eastern religions have peaked in popularity. Americans will reject them as cults which have left large segments of the world's population superstitious, poor, and ignorant.

Only those who are unable to find inner peace through traditional American religious practices will continue to seek them, but there will be some residual beneficial influence, such as meditation, quieter life styles and a change in eating habits.

PART IX: COMMUNITY AND FAMILY

PERMANENCE OF MARRIAGE AND STABILITY OF AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 772	52%	25%	21%	44%	21%	28%
C	N= 302	66%	21%	12%	64%	17%	16%

The conservatives view the projected decline of stability of marriages as dismaying. Changing social values, the women's liberation movement, the sexual revolution, birth control methods, and women pursuing careers are some of the reasons for instability.

There are a few signs of hope. Today's youth seem more conservative and serious about marital relationships; many are marrying later; marital counseling may help keep couples together, and divorce might price itself out of the market as costs for separation make it all but impossible to live alone.

The moderates and liberals view the trend as against stability, but not as many predict less permanance, and quite a few more think relationships will be more permanent. They are much less concerned about alternative living arrangements than the conservatives. They expect:

* A reaction to the current high divorce rates and extramarital living arrangements by children who reject their parents' permissiveness.
* Newer lifestyles with deferred marriage and alternative living arrangements are becoming more acceptable options. As a result, mismatches might be avoided.
* As people live longer and change their lifestyles more, the likelihood of multiple marriages will increase.
* With more women entering the work force, parental responsibilities will increasingly be delegated to social institutions, e.g., the schools and day-care centers.

EXTENT TO WHICH HUSBANDS AND WIVES SHARE EQUALLY IN WORK, HOUSEHOLD, AND CHILD-REARING ROLES.

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	1%	8%	90%	6%	17%	72%

There will be less sex-role stereotyping in the home in the future. With inflation, women are working more to provide a second income for their families. Although changing lifestyles toward more equitable sharing of roles is a strain on marital relationships, sharing will benefit people in the long run.

Women will benefit by:

* Having time and opportunity to pursue a career, develop new interests, meet interesting people, and contribute to an improved standard of living for the family.

Children will:

* Learn to be more responsible and self-sufficient. They will learn to share more equally in the work to be done and will learn a kind of sharing that is richer than existed when people had only their traditional roles.

It would help to have more flexible work schedules and opportunities for part-time work.

RATE OF CHILDBIRTH AMONG UNMARRIED PARENTS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 75	51%	17%	29%	20%	20%	52%
M	N= 180	31%	18%	48%	32%	22%	32%
C	N= 85	7%	28%	62%	62%	16%	9%

More than half the respondents in the liberal segment of the forum are optimistic that the rate of illegitimate births will level off or decrease. Their hope depends on sex education, more effective birth control techniques, and the restoration of morality in family relationships.

Moderates are more ambivalent about the future trend in illegitimate births. Although people who are not married will be living together and having sexual relationships, they think the better educated, middle-class, single women will defer having children to pursue careers.

There will be fewer teenage parents as sex education, more effective birth control methods, and abortion reduce the likelihood of their having children. Changing social values may increase the acceptance of illegitimate births, in which case the only problem is whether the children are wanted and receive adequate love and care.

The most conservative of the forum respondents lament the prospects of an increase in the rate of illegitimate births, which they overwhelmingly predict. Hopefully, with more effective birth control techniques, women will exercise better judgment if not renewed sexual morality.

CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND ABANDONMENT

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 75	64%	24%	12%	20%	7%	67%
M	N= 180	27%	41%	32%	54%	5%	29%
C	N= 85	9%	38%	53%	76%	12%	8%

Again the three groups predict the future very differently. The difference lies in their assessment of the causes and the cures.

According to the more liberal element in the forum:

* Abuse which occurs at all socioeconomic levels is caused by stress, frustration, and anger which builds up when parents are unable to cope with adversity in their lives.
* In families where both parents work or women are single heads of households, children are neglected because parents do not have the time and emotional energy to deal with their needs.
* Low-income families, with more children than they can cope with, vent their frustration and anger not on the source of their problems but on their children.
* But as the public becomes more aware and concerned, better preventive and remedial approaches will be developed.
* With better birth control, there will be smaller families, and women will have opportunities to seek more fulfilling lives.
* Better mental health programs will enable parents to handle frustration and anger.

According to the moderate view:

* Child abusers, once the victims of abuse themselves, think anger, agression, and violence are parental prerogatives.
* Inflation, unemployment, and poverty intensify stress, frustration, and the incidence of child abuse.

* As child abuse cases are reported more in the media, the public will demand and get stricter enforcement of parental responsibility laws.
* An expansion of family counseling and self-help programs will help.

The conservative view is that neglect and abandonment will increase.

* Society continues to tolerate a cultural subclass where lack of family stability creates unwanted children.
* Unable to cope with stress, parents engage in deviant behaviors, e.g., alcoholism, drugs, wife beating, child abuse, and are neither helped nor punished for their behavior.
* The problem will not be solved until the public becomes motivated to take action to protect the helpless victims of this pathology.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MINORITIES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 772	83%	11%	4%		10%	8%	79%
C	N= 302	63%	26%	11%		28%	11%	60%

Most of the forum agree it will decrease, based on:

* The expectation that minorities will increasingly demonstrate their competence in management and the professions and dispel myths about racial inferiority.
* Legal discrimination will gradually be overcome through equal opportunity legislation, affirmative action, and school integration.
* As the post-civil rights generation becomes the majority, people will be accepted on the basis of their personal worth.

But optimism must be tempered by:

* The possibility of a white, middle-class backlash.
* The recognition that increasing competition for jobs and places in professional schools will create tensions.
* Racial and ethnic discrimination is likely when cultural and language barriers separate Spanish-speaking Americans from mainstream Americans.
* Visibly high crime rates, drug abuse, and delinquent behavior of the unemployed ghetto residents exacerbates the problem of integration.
* Adverse economic conditions are potentially explosive, and too much talk about the problems of the disadvantaged without action to achieve goals does no one any good.
* Current laws to eliminate legal discrimination are largely unenforceable.

According to the conservatives, efforts to achieve equality of opportunity in employment at a time of limited economic growth, high inflation, and high unemployment will be slow indeed. The standard of living between the "haves" and the "have-nots" must be narrowed, but in times like this, it will <u>not</u> be narrowed.

ISOLATION OF SENIOR CITIZENS FROM THE NUCLEAR FAMIL' AND COMMUNITY LIFE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impac.)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 255	49%	20%	32%		33%	8%	52%
C	N= 85	11%	15%	73%		69%	14%	12%

The optimistic view is that future "seniors" will not be as isolated:

* Because of increasing numbers, their needs will become more visible.
* Research and practice in gerontology will provide better ways of integrating seniors.
* As they enjoy better health, they will remain active in the community longer.
* As they grow in number, they will assume a more central role in community life and demand the benefits and services they need.

The pessimistic view:

* Americans will continue to neglect the needs of the elderly.
* The instability and mobility of U.S. families further isolates the old.
* Although seniors will work to create better lives for themselves and their isolation will be counteracted somewhat by community programs, many charlatans will move in to exploit the field for their own profit.

GEOGRAPHIC SEGRATION AND ISOLATION OF LOW-INCOME PEOPLE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 142	36%	42%	17%	26%	29%	36%
M	N= 100	29%	35%	33%	52%	14%	29%
C	N= 127	16%	35%	46%	65%	14%	13%

In the liberal view:

* Americans are increasingly aware of what life is like in urban ghettos.
* Continued separation between races and classes will continue to cause mutual distrust, suspicion, lack of respect, racial discrimination, unemployment and a deteriorating environment which perpetuates urban decay.
* Efforts to reverse the situation-- federal housing, training and job programs, etc.--are limited in effect, and many tax dollars are wasted in the process.
* Affirmative action and equal employment opportunities will help if business and jobs are relocated in the inner city.
* As the job market increases, there will be more neighborhood integration.

In the moderate view:

* The geographic segregation and isolation of low-income people is a symptom of a broader social issue.
* Low-income families in urban ghettos need better educational, training, and job opportunities which will enable them to raise their standard of living closer to that of the middle class.
* More effective public policies are needed to equalize income and housing opportunities for low-income families.

In the conservative view:

* The situation will get worse as the gap becomes wider.
* Efforts to desegregate urban ghettos, e.g., compulsory busing and public housing, will intensify the current trend.
* Integration will be successful only if voluntary.
* People should be free to decide where they want to live and to establish roots with their own racial, ethnic, or religious group.

ASSIMILATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED INTO COMMUNITY LIFE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	1%	8%	91%	5%	6%	86%

The physically handicapped will increasingly be assimilated as the U.S. becomes a more humane society.

* Compensatory services will be expensive but necessary.
* As the public becomes more aware of the needs of the handicapped and their potential, political support will increase.

The pessimistic view is that in spite of efforts to integrate the physically handicapped, legislative appropiations and removal of physical barriers will not be enough. Most healthy people will still feel uncomfortable with the handicapped.

* Politicians will continue to give lip service to the handicapped but real support will level off as demands of more influential groups increase.
* The handicapped will benefit less from government support than the manufacturers of devices designed to help them.

PART X: HEALTH AND MEDICINE

EMPHASIS ON PREVENTIVE MEDICINE RATHER THAN ON REMEDIATION THROUGH DIRECT HEALTH CARE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N=1,074	2%	13%	85%		10%	6%	84%

Benefits of prevention:

* Longer life, healthier people, reduced health care costs.
* New techniques for diagnosis, prevention, and treatment developed so people can assume more direct responsibility for their own health.
* Prepayment plans (e.g., H.M.O.s) will encourage a consumer-oriented approach that will reduce costs through education, early diagnosis, and preventive treatment resulting in better health and lower costs.
* A national health insurance program will be passed, expanding coverage to all.

Research will demonstrate that the environment, lifestyles, and personal habits are the primary causes of health problems.

* Dependence of the medical profession on high-cost technology, profits on drugs, medical fees, and unnecessary surgery will increasingly be called into question.
* Professionals will be trained or retrained to emphasize prevention and the public will be better informed about it.

Problems foreseen:

* Leadership of medical and public health schools will be critical in shifting the balance from direct health care toward prevention in professional practice.
* Physicians, through the AMA, will resist government regulation and spending that supports preventive medicine as a move toward socialized medicine.
* Despite rising health costs, the government continues to spend more for direct health care than for prevention: the public health bureaucracy is still growing, supporting direct health care rather than prevention.
* Prevention assumes the quality of the environment will be improved and that people willingly change unhealthy habits and lifestyles.
* Advertising and public health interests are incompatible. Advertisers are more sophisticated about affecting attitudes and behaviors than are public health agencies.

PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS MAINTAINING A BALANCED, NUTRITIOUS, AND HEALTHY DIET

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 772	10%	23%	65%		21%	5%	67%
C	N= 302	25%	40%	34%		51%	10%	33%

The liberal view:

As one of the critical ingredients in preventive medicine, diet will be easier to regulate than pollution.

A prevention emphasis in the medical schools will stimulate research and public education on the causal relationship between diet and disease. As a result:

* Scientific findings will force the food production industry to market foods higher in nutritional value and lower in harmful synthetic additives.
* Better educated people will maintain more balanced diets as they become more aware of benefits.
* People on low or fixed incomes will benefit from government efforts to provide them with better diets through the delivery of low-cost, nutritious meals.
* A better informed public will choose foods more carefully.
* With inflation rising, families will grow and preserve their own food.

* Lower mortality rates through better diets are already evident, and the trend is expected to continue.

The conservative view points to:

* The popularity of junk foods that Americans eat on the run.
* More mothers are working and are less likely to prepare well-balanced meals.
* The great impact of advertising in the fast foods industry on consumer attitudes and eating habits.

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE COSTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE U.S. GNP

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
M/C	N= 265	5%	8%	82%		63%	14%	16%
L	N= 75	24%	8%	67%		36%	23%	40%

Those critical of rising health care costs point out:

* Any hope of cost containment demands sacrifices by one or another of these competing interests: hospital administrators, medical doctors, health insurance plans, government bureaucracy, equipment manufacturers, drug companies, lawyers, and patients. Each will resist.

The optimistic view is that rising health care costs will be contained by:

* Government regulation, increased competition, and more emphasis on prevention.
* Passage of national health insurance (which is contingent on inflation control and the government's ability to regulate rising health care costs).
* Taxpayers, who will hold the government accountable for eliminating waste and inefficiency in managing the health care system.

ACCESS OF MIDDLE-INCOME AND LOW-INCOME FAMILIES TO LIFE-EXTENDING MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 255	2%	7%	89%		5%	12%	78%
C	N= 85	14%	22%	64%		28%	21%	49%

There is high agreement that middle- and low-income families will have increased access to life-extending medical technologies because most assume an expansion in numbers of families covered by broad insurance programs, e.g., a national health insurance program.

Increasingly, the moral dilemma will have to be faced: do the benefits of extending life (regardless of the economic and psychological costs) outweigh the costs? Patients and their families (for religious, economic, or pain[illegible]l reasons) may want to preserve the right to die in dignity.

EFFECTIVE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND CURE FOR CANCER

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	1%	9%	90%		9%	3%	84%

The forum is optimistic about finding effective methods to prevent, treat, and cure cancer by the end of the century because the search for a cure is given such a high priority. They predict that breakthroughs will occur just before or after the end of the century.

EFFECTIVE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND CURE FOR HEART DISEASE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	0%	8%	92%		4%	6%	85%

Progress has already been made; we know that heart disease is reduced by changing lifestyles and habits with an emphasis on better nutrition, less smoking, more exercise, and less stress.

But there are limits to what will be possible in the treatment and cure of the disease. Some gains made through research and prevention may be offset by increased stress and by problems of aging.

The ethical issues of prolonged life will continue to be debated as treatment gets more sophisticated.

INCIDENCE OF ALCOHOL ADDICTION

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
M/C	N= 227	6%	32%	56%	88%	4%	8%
L	N= 142	11%	48%	35%	73%	11%	16%

Alcoholism is already a serious problem, and it will get worse before it gets better because:

* In an increasingly impersonal world without values and roots, people continue to seek escape rather than finding healthier outlets.
* Alcohol is used as a way to escape stress, frustration, and anxiety.

It disrupts the family, causes absenteeism, diminishes work productivity and increases the public tax burden. Because the social and economic problems it causes are so severe, no change in its present abuse would be disastrous.

But because social drinking is widely accepted and even encouraged by the liquor industry, and because rising affluence, leisure, and social contact seem to promote alcoholism, people will probably drink more, and more will become victims of the habit.

Emphasis will initially be more on treatment than prevention, but churches, public and private social welfare agencies, and self-help groups will intensify their efforts to educate the public about alcohol's effects.

The trend might also be reversed through a medical or psychiatric breakthrough, but until then, the costs will be staggering.

INCIDENCE OF DRUG ABUSE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
M/C	N= 227	16%	25%	56%	71%	7%	16%
L	N= 142	38%	28%	29%	42%	8%	44%

Drug abuse will continue to be profitable and law enforcement agencies will have insufficient funds to stop the flow. As supplies of one drug are shut off, new sources and new drugs will be developed to replace the old ones.

The drug culture is romanticized by people in the public eye, e.g., movie stars, rock musicians, professional athletes, etc., and affluence and pressure will cause increasing numbers of Americans to turn to drugs as an escape.

Prevention and education at an early age will help, but the addicted will need counseling, therapy, and a change of environment.

Marijuana may be legalized with more controls on the traffic of hard drugs. Still, drug abuse will probably be more visible with over-the-counter and prescription drugs even more of a problem.

There is some optimism that the problem will level off as young people who have seen the disastrous effects of the drug culture of the '60s become more cautious.

PART XI: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IMPACT OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE ON THE RATE OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C N=1,074	4%	15%	78%	7%	28%	56%

Faith in science to solve problems, including those created by earlier technology, will acclerate technological change and encourage breakthroughs in energy, health, environmental protection, communications, transportation, food production, and military defense--all are deemed necessary to sustain the American economy.

Limits to scientific research and the rate of technological change will be:

* Limited economic growth and investment in research and development.
* Political constraints on the application of technology.
* Recent reductions in federal and corporate investments indicating declining public support and a more cautious public attitude toward innovation.
* Social changes necessary to cope with it may be lagging too far behind.
* Moral and ethical issues increasingly will be raised about the relevance of science to human needs and the unanticipated, adverse consequences of technology on humans and the environment.
* Investment in short-range results can be at odds with investments in basic research.

PERCENTAGE OF U.S. GNP INVESTED IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M N= 255	20%	27%	44%	29%	12%	44%
C N= 85	41%	35%	19%	62%	12%	18%

The liberal view is that an increase in R&D investment will:

* Insure continued economic progress and improvement in the quality of life.
* Be necessary to solve critical societal problems and maintain a technological advantage in competition with foreign nations.

But:

* With increased inflation comes increasing political pressure to reduce government spending and with powerful constituencies demanding services, R&D investment has leveled off.
* Inflation, government regulation, and lack of tax incentives have deterred corporations from investing in R&D.

Still optimistic, they predict:

* The decline will bottom out with new investments of federal funds targeted to high priority areas such as energy, health, and national defense. Business and industry will expand in high profit areas, e.g., communications, energy, and computers.

The conservative view is that R&D funds have peaked. From now on:

* Government and business will invest only in R&D that is relatively low risk and has potential for immediate payoff.
* Under adverse economic conditions, R&D budgets will be the first to be cut.
* Unless the current trend of declining investment is reversed, the U.S. will lose its technological superiority and competitive advantage in world markets.

COMMITMENT OF SCHOLARS AND SCIENTISTS IN MAJOR UNIVERSITIES TO LONG-TERM BASIC RESEARCH

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C N= 365	27%	45%	28%	36%	18%	34%

Scholars and scientists are still committed, but funding sources have shifted to applied research and development to solve current problems. Without sufficient funds, they will not be able to conduct the type of long-range research which is essential for technological breakthroughs.

The trend seems to be toward applying theories and facts already known. Public and private funds are going to low-risk applications with immediate payoffs.

Private foundations are inclined to invest in R&D that is more service oriented than research oriented.

Public attitudes are shifting from a research interest in higher education to improving the quality of teaching and the efficiency of postsecondary educational institutions.

Unless the above attitude and funding structure change, it will be impossible for scholars and scientists to perform the basic research needed to achieve technological breakthroughs.

PROBABILITY OF DEVELOPING AN ENGINE WHICH IS COST EFFECTIVE, NONPOLLUTING, AND POWERED BY AN ABUNDANT ALTERNATIVE TO FOSSIL FUEL

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 275	4%	14%	75%		8%	5%	87%
C	N= 90	9%	27%	58%		30%	6%	64%

The forecast is optimistic, with liberal and moderate views more optimistic than conservative views.

The forum thinks that such a breakthrough is more likely to be a result of federal investment in R&D than industry initiative because industry has such a major investment in maintaining the status quo.

Mass transportation will not provide an acceptable alternative to the auto because it is incompatible with nonurban lifestyles.

Autos will probably not be driven by solar power or any other soft energy resource. Nuclear fusion will provide a low-cost source, and hydrogen power is another possibility; both will not be available, however.

USE OF SPACE COLONIES TO TRANSMIT SOLAR ENERGY TO EARTH
(The question should have been stated "Probability of Use of Space Colonies..."; however, the forum answered the question as stated above.)

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	1%	22%	51%		6%	10%	51%

A long-range possibility which will not take place before 2000 and is probably 30 to 50 years away. Scarce R&D resources will be invested in lower-risk projects with more immediate payoff.

Oil companies will resist because solar energy competes with more profitable and certain energy resources.

At best, the idea is premature; at worst, it is a "Buck Rogers" daydream, far too costly to pursue.

EFFECTIVE TRANSPLANT OF HUMAN ORGANS TO ACHIEVE EXTENDED LIFE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 369	2%	6%	92%		2%	25%	64%

Medical science will achieve breakthroughs, but respondents have reservations:

* Is life of infinite value or are there limits to medical costs that will impose limits on what is possible?
* Will there be sufficient donors?
* Will it violate religious and cultural values?
* Will it cause excessive population growth and maldistribution among age groups?

* By what criteria will life be saved or terminated? Who will determine who is to live and die?
* Are transplants worth the risk and cost involved?
* Should we perhaps invest in better alternatives for improving the health of the nation?

USE OF BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION AND DRUGS TO ENHANCE LEARNING AND MODIFY HUMAN BEHAVIOR

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	9%	22%	60%		17%	44%	26%

Both behavior modification and drugs have the potential for benefit and abuse.

* Technologies may be outstripping wisdom in their use.
* In the future, more caution will be exercised in use of human subjects.
* The public should be protected from manipulation by unethical practitioners.
* Use can solve some problems, but has serious political and social consequences.
* Use of drugs for mind control is rejected because of the dangers of misuse, addiction, and treatment which deals only with symptoms rather than the underlying causes of abnormal behavior.

EFFECTIVE PREDICTION AND CONTROL OF WEATHER AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 369	1%	21%	71%		5%	15%	66%

Weather prediction is possible with increased accuracy, but we are a long way from effective control.

There are many political, social, and economic problems that would have to be solved before weather control is desirable. Altering the weather and climate to benefit one nation, region, or interest group may have adverse effects on others.

It would be nice to be able to modify weather to avoid natural disasters, destruction of crops, and loss of life, but the prospects are unlikely.

PART XII: WORK AND EMPLOYMENT

COMMITMENT OF U.S. LEADERS IN GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, AND LABOR TO THE GOAL OF FULL EMPLOYMENT

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	9%	51%	38%		26%	27%	39%

Government, business, and labor define full employment differently.

* For government and business, current levels of 4 to 6 percent unemployment may satisfy the goal of full employment.
* For unions, it may mean the use of all available full-time and part-time labor seeking jobs.
* Government supports high employment, but inflation will be given higher priority than unemployment.
* Business has never been committed to full employment as a goal. Concern about taxes, inflation, government regulation, markets, technology, competition, prices, and profits take precedence.
* New reforms are needed to facilitate cooperation between business and labor in creating jobs and increasing productivity to achieve mutual benefits, e.g., increased profits, higher wages, and full employment.
* This must wait until inflation and taxes are under control.

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN ENTERING THE WORK FORCE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N=1,074	1%	5%	93%		8%	40%	50%

Factors mentioned:

* Changed attitudes and lifestyles due to women's liberation and women's rights.
* Inflation and rising living costs--families need two incomes.
* Single heads of households will seek jobs and day care.
* Women seeking careers will be supported by the Equal Rights Amendment and affirmative action and advance into challenging, responsible, high-paying jobs.
* In this difficult transition period for women, families, and society, some will have conflicts between career and homemaking roles and return to more traditional roles.
* The changing role may strain marital relationships, increasing divorce rates and causing problems in future generations because of child neglect and abuse.
* Major obstacle to career advancement will be rising unemployment. Better qualified women replacing marginal men may increase productivity but cause a male backlash, reducing gains achieved in equalizing opportunities for women.

DAY CARE FOR CHILDREN OF WOMEN WHO ARE WORKING OR SEEKING TO ENTER THE WORK FORCE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 369	1%	6%	91%		12%	27%	56%

The benefits are clear for women:

* More freedom, equality,and choice in selecting a lifestyle--a necessity for women who must work.

The costs are not clear for children and families:

* Rapid growth of day-care centers will make it difficult to assure high quality standards and care.
* Low-cost, high-quality care will not be achieved without corporate or government subsidies. The costs may become so excessive they will largely offset the productivity gains resulting from increasing percentages of women entering the work force.
* Federal support of day-care centers will increase the dependence on government agencies, raise taxes and fuel inflation.
* With progress that is being made in the child development field, day care by trained professionals may be superior to the care some parents can offer.

CHRONIC UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG URBAN MINORITY YOUTH

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
M/C	N= 227	15%	46%	39%		81%	2%	14%
L	N= 142	52%	35%	13%		36%	4%	54%

Moderate/conservatives view this as one of the nation's most serious problems that is likely to get worse. The forecast is based on the fact that many minority youth are so poorly educated they are unfit to enter the labor force, and efforts to remedy their lack of job skills have largely been unsuccessful, e.g., CETA.

Unless the attitude of "why work if the government will take care of you" can be changed, the training, education, and job programs will be ineffective.

The liberal view is that chronic unemployment in this group indicates extensive deterioration within urban society:

* Urban school systems are failing; a restructuring of them is needed.
* Declining job opportunities in the inner city add to the problem.
* Government efforts to create jobs are offset by unemployability of these youth and the inflationary impact of more government spending.

With only the hope of menial, low-paying jobs, they will have no incentive to seek education and training and will subsist on welfare and crime. Change will take place only when inner cities are rejuvenated and neighborhood, family, and racial pride are restored.

FREQUENCY OF MID-CAREER JOB CHANGE AMONG WORKING ADULTS

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C N=1,074	3%	9%	88%	6%	28%	58%

A way of life, mid-career change will be beneficial or detrimental depending on conditions under which the choices are made:

* If skills are no longer in demand, change will cause anxiety and frustrati n.
* If people change for more personal satisfaction in their work, good feelings will attend.

In an employees' job market, workers will change jobs to achieve satisfaction. Managers will need to learn to increase productivity using a fluid work force and to improve working conditions to retain the best employees, e.g., flexible work schedules, interesting work, and opportunities for training.

In an employers' job market, job security and wages that help one meet life's necessities will be the bottom line. Employers will force mid-career change, workers will be more compliant.

Looking toward the future of high job mobility, new educational experiences will be required, such as:

* Liberal arts and general education providing transferable knowledge and skills, as a way to prepare for several vocations.
* Professional training at advanced levels should be less specialized, with possibly multiple masters' degrees earned through adult continuing education.
* Computerized information systems to locate better job opportunities and more flexible opportunities for education, training, and counseling.

EFFECTIVENESS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, PRODUCTIVITY, AND PROFIT AS MOTIVATORS OF MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C N= 369	17%	40%	32%	16%	28%	39%

Economic necessity will require a new work ethic and more austere lifestyles; managers will be forced to reduce costs and increase productivity through improved management and budgetary practices.

The values of the marketplace, economic growth, productivity, and profits often conflict with the interest of consumers and the public.

Managers will become aware that human motives are complex, and a new style of management will become prevalent-- one that considers employee morale and performance along with efficiency and productivity.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKERS TO INFLUENCE ORGANIZATIONAL DECISIONS WHICH AFFECT THEIR LIVES ON THE JOB

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
C N= 85	11%	34%	53%	29%	31%	36%
L/M N= 255	1%	21%	77%	11%	22%	61%

Participation will increase morale, but opinion is divided about whether it will increase productivity. The forum commented:

* More educated workers will want to enter more into the decisions that affect their jobs.
* But participation slows up the decision-making process.
* Opponents of worker participation point to disastrous experiments in Italy and France.
* Integrity in corporate leadership is needed.

* Labor unions will influence through group power rather than individual participation.
* Neither business nor labor organizations are very democratic in the way they involve individual workers.

OVEREDUCATION AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT OF SKILLS ON JOB

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	16%	18%	63%		45%	26%	21%

The economic and social benefits of a college degree have been oversold and already too many college graduates are unable to find jobs. Increasingly, those with advanced degrees will have to take jobs which require little skill or training.

* Graduates will have to develop more realistic expectations about the value of an advanced college degree for jobs and careers.
* There are already too many college graduates competing for a declining number of managerial and professional positions. As more well-educated workers enter the work force, managers will upgrade jobs, provide more opportunities to join in decision making, and make more effective use of better-educated personnel.
* Declining birth rates, inflation, and rising college costs will force a decline in college enrollment.
* On-the-job training will rise--an acceptable alternative to college degrees.
* Community colleges that train for specific careers will expand; liberal arts programs will decline.
* If peoples' jobs are not sufficiently satisfying and engaging, they will seek outlets through leisure and voluntary activities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOB SHARING, FLEXIBLE WORK SCHEDULES, AND REDUCED WORK WEEKS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 369	1%	6%	93%		4%	15%	77%

Already such opportunities are increasing in many industries. These trends will continue because they offer employers economic benefits and employees more satisfying work environments.

* Flexibility is especially useful to women entering the work force; it allows more time to take adequate care of their homes and families while working.
* Job sharing helps in the case of two-job families; many will occupy more than one job.

Having a shorter work week and more flexible schedules will be beneficial only if people have better alternatives for using their leisure time.

PART XIII: EDUCATION AND TRAINING

PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS FUNCTIONALLY LITERATE IN READING AND WRITING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 772	20%	14%	64%		22%	3%	71%
C	N= 302	33%	26%	39%		52%	6%	40%

Optimism is based on the traditional American faith in education and increasing public concern about illiteracy resulting in a renewed emphasis on basic skills and competency testing in schools.

Taxpayers and parents will insist that schools be more accountable in insuring that all students acquire the basic skills needed for survival.

Prevention will be the solution in the future (working with families during preschool years), rather than remedial efforts. Also:

* There will be fewer children in the schools, so teachers will have more time to do a better job.
* TV will expose children to words at an earlier age.
* Parents and teachers will coordinate their use of educational TV programs with language skill training.
* High school diplomas will be granted on the basis of tested competencies and acquired skills, not just school attendance.
* Adults will have continuing access to educational opportunities throughout life.
* A campaign to eliminate hard-core illiteracy will be costly, but will increase savings and productivity in the long run. Community agencies, including employers, churches, libraries, and voluntary agencies, will work cooperatively with schools to reduce illiteracy.

The conservative view is that only a restructuring of public education will solve the illiteracy problem. They say:

* Reading is in danger of extinction as TV and audiovisuals replace the printed page.
* The public school curriculum is inundated with learning activities that have nothing to do with basic skills.
* The quality of education in the public schools has suffered due to government interference, collective bargaining and lowered professional standards for teachers.
* High illiteracy is especially prevalent amont low-income, inner city minorities.
* We will have a better understanding of the problem when competency testing is introduced to assess progress and maintain standards for graduation.
* Teachers will spend so much time controlling student behavior that they will have relatively little time to teach basic skills.
* Adult basic education does not seem effective in reaching adults who lack basic skills.
* Gains achieved in functional literacy will be offset to some extent by a new influx of immigrants.

NUMBER OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS (AGED 17 to 25) ENROLLED IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N=1,074	64%	11%	23%		20%	34%	37%

There will be a decline in the number of traditional college-age students until the end of the century when the number will stabilize at a higher level. In the meantime, this will create problems for many colleges and universities, but will probably benefit nontraditional education programs.

* The impact of the trend will be influenced by the state of the economy.
* With rising inflation, higher operating costs, and increasing student fees, it will be more difficult to recruit students, to maintain current faculty levels, and to balance budgets.
* Large, affluent, prestigious universities will be less seriously affected.
* More students will enroll in career-oriented vocational and technical programs.
* Large tuition-dependent universities will have a hard time attracting students and funds.
* Small liberal arts colleges (especially those in rural areas) will face declining enrollments and shift toward more career-oriented programs.
* Junior and community colleges and technical institutes operating at lower costs and with less competition in their regions will probably experience some growth in student enrollment.
* Many institutions will be forced to close.
* Many will reevaluate and clarify their role and purpose.

* The more competitive will raise their academic standards and increase the diversity and quality of their programs.
* Many students who have neither the aptitude nor the motivation to profit from college will decide on more appropriate alternatives.
* Faculty will spend more time teaching better students and less time giving attention to poorer students.
* Adult part-time learners will have enhanced opportunities.
* Institutions will become more open and flexible as the demand for lifelong learning increases.
* Professionals will maintain expertise through continuing education.
* Women entering the work force will seek new job skills.
* Training will also attract the unemployed, workers seeking advancement, and those seeking mid-career job change.
* There will be less emphasis on degree requirements.
* Traditional students will split their time between work and study to finance their education.
* Equal access of low-income students will be dependent on financial aid opportunities.
* Without expansion of federal aid and grants or contracts with private industry, many postsecondary institutions will close their doors.

NUMBER OF ADULT PART-TIME LEARNERS ENROLLED IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	2%	4%	93%		2%	4%	90%

A number of societal forces will create increasing demand for adult part-time learning during the next twenty years. The following types of people are likely to become adult part-time learners:

* Chronically unemployed youth will have education and training subsidized.
* The temporarily unemployed will be retrained for jobs in other industries.
* Women reentering the work force, to qualify for jobs.
* Workers already on the job to advance or make job or career changes.
* Professionals, to maintain their competence.
* Well-educated people seeking intellectual stimulation and cultural enrichment.
* Senior citizens and adults of all ages, for personal enjoyment.

Adult learners will be in a buyers' market. Institutions will have to make structural changes and find sources of financial aid to make the transition.

Questions and reservations are expressed:

* Who will pay the costs of lifelong learning?
* Will there be sufficient flexibility in the education and work environment to enable adult learners to study and work on a reasonable schedule?
* Will a more open and flexible system develop, permitting adult learners to take advantage of all available educational offerings?
* Growth of nontraditional programs is expected through a variety of programs, including educational television, learning exchanges, workshops, church retreats, home study, on-the-job training, library, self study, and museums.

Enrollment of adult part-time learners in colleges and universities will offset the decline in full-time students only if colleges compete with nontraditional programs in quality, diversity, and cost.

COMPETITION AMONG POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS FOR STUDENTS AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	1%	4%	94%		33%	29%	32%

Increasing competition benefits educational consumers, as institutions are forced to clarify their purposes and offer programs more relevant to societal needs and consumer demands. Competition will cause institutions to reexamine their diversity, quality, and costs.

Competition will raise the standards in prestigious institutions, but less competitive institutions will maintain open door admissions policies, respond to student demand and funding source requirements, and offer courses which vary from high standards of certification to no standards at all.

Competition may result in a marketing war with much unnecessary duplication, waste of resources, but more opportunity for innovation and diverse educational opportunities for students. To avoid excessive competition, many states will adopt master plans which allocate different roles to different institutions. Voluntary cooperation is desirable, and will be employed if institutions are offered incentives and understand the mutual advantage they will gain.
the mutual advantage.

If government takes undue advantage of the situation to reduce support for post-secondary education, taxpayers will gain at the expense of educational consumers.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE U.S. GNP

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 369	22%	26%	50%		27%	20%	49%

Educators supporting lifelong learning expect a gradual increase in investment in education and training for adult learners in the form of tax credits, student financial aid, entitlements, and tuition subsidies.

Priority will be given to training programs in professions and occupations which support national goals and manpower needs over general education. Public spending will shift from public schools to junior and community colleges and technical institutes. Also:

* Business will extend its on-the-job training programs for women, low-income minorities, and the unemployed.
* Universities will negotiate contracts with employers to provide leadership and professional and cultural programs for management.
* Employers will expand staff development, job training, and educational fringe benefits for employees.
* The military will increase its investment in education and training to attract good recruits.
* Corporations will increase investment in education to adapt to changing technology and increase profits.
* The major growth will be in the investment adult learners make in themselves, spending their own time and money.
* Another investment will be the time spent in education away from the job.
* Advocates of lifelong learning argue that such an investment now will result in economic growth through increased productivity later.

The dissenting opinion is that reductions in government spending and taxes have a higher priority than increased spending for education and training.

Support for higher education will decline. Increased support for lifelong learning will not happen simply because adult learners demand it; well-organized political support and advocacy will be essential to compete with more established priorities, e.g., energy, economy, health, unemployment, and aging.

INVESTMENT OF EMPLOYERS IN HUMAN CAPITAL THROUGH CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF EMPLOYEES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 364	3%	11%	83%		11%	5%	85%

Employers will recognize the necessity of continuing education and training to:

* Develop new technology and increase creativity and productivity of workers.
* Maintain the morale of workers.
* Keep the knowledge and skills of their work force current.
* Equalize employment opportunities for women, minorities, and the handicapped.
* Fulfill collective bargaining contracts, which will build in education demands.

Consequently, education and training will continue to be a growth industry in both public agencies and private corporations.

The dissenting opinion is that employers will place the burden of responsibility for upgrading job skills on their employees. With inflation, taxes, and higher wages, business will spend less rather than more on staff development and training. While large corporations will invest heavily in leadership, management, etc., small business will not. Since most Americans work in small firms, the corporate investment will benefit only a small percentage of workers.

DEPENDENCE OF THE PUBLIC ON PROFESSIONALS FOR KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION REQUIRED TO SATISFY HUMAN NEEDS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 369	12%	19%	66%		31%	36%	33%

Recent criticism suggests a growing populist reaction against professional elites who have used their clients' dependence to promote their own self-interest.

* Policymakers will expect professionals to justify their support and be accountable for the quality of services.
* Well-educated clients will expect to participate on a more equal basis with professionals in decisions that affect their lives.
* Adult education sometimes conflicts with the vested interests of professionals whose high levels of income is a result of client dependence.

But on the other hand:

* Public policies reinforce dependence on professionals for large segments of the population.
* Bureaucrats and professionals specialized in their thinking and training are often not functional outside their primary areas of expertise.

In the future, the public will demand that professionals help clients to become self-sufficient in solving their own problems.

The interests of professional practitioners will be threatened by educational programs that enable paraprofessionals and clients to function more independently.

MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PERIODIC RELICENSING AND RECERTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONALS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	2%	12%	85%		11%	16%	66%

Should continuing education be voluntary or mandatory? Professionals prefer a voluntary system and a free market approach to the selection of opportunities.

The cost will be significant and borne not by the professionals, but by funding sources and clients.

The problems:

Mandatory continuing education will be difficult to enforce. Policies and standards may be too restrictive, producing an accumulation of "units" rather than improved performance.

The standards will lag behind knowledge and technology, and while programs will benefit universities financially, they may do so at the expense of the professional's flexibility in pursuing a career.

The problems anticipated are sufficient to plan for a reevaluation of the policy in the near future wherever it has been implemented.

PART XIV: CULTURE, HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS

GROWTH OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE HUMANITIES, e.g., HISTORY, LITERATURE, AND PHILOSOPHY

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C N=1,074	35%	32%	33%	42%	13%	35%

The optimistic view forecasts a reversal in the current trend, with a growing interest and support for the humanities. Support will increase because:

* An affluent, better-educated society with more leisure time will create a demand for cultural enrichment.
* Liberal arts will become a valued experience as learning how to learn, think, and make decisions become more important than specialized job skills.
* Lifelong learning will be the trend with middle-aged and older adults studying for enlightenment and enjoyment.
* Expansion of learning opportunities in humanties will come through the government, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and foundations.
* Colleges and universities will give greater emphasis to the subject.
* Private and public support for public broadcasting will improve quality of TV programs to appeal to wider audiences.

The pessimistic view is that Americans will continue to devalue the humanities relative to science, technology, and careers because:

* For many, the dominant concern will be economic survival.
* Many regard humanities as a luxury for the elite, a waste of resources which could better be spent on improving living conditions for the majority.
* With declining enrollments in schools and colleges, job opportunities for scholars, teachers, and graduates in the humanities will decline.
* The majority of Americans will have only limited exposure to the humanities and little interest in supporting them.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM OF RACIAL, RELIGIOUS, AND ETHNIC MINORITIES

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M N= 242	12%	21%	60%	8%	22%	58%
C N= 127	20%	31%	42%	18%	32%	34%

In the liberal/moderate view, racial, religious, and ethnic groups have been a source of pride, strength, and stability for communities, families, and individuals.

As we understand, appreciate, and tolerate the distinct cultural heritage of minority groups, our society is enriched.

Concern about the loss of cultural identity has caused many minority groups to achieve unity by isolation from the mainstream.

Forces working in the opposite direction to homogenize the culture are TV advertising, compensatory education for the disadvantaged, integration, the ecumenical movement in religion, and statewide competency testing.

The conservative view is that the limits of diversity and pluralism have been reached in the U.S. The tendency for racial, religious, and ethnic groups to pursue their own vested interests is causing separation, fragmentation, and conflict.

The dilemma is to preserve the cultural identity of minorities without sacrificing unity of purpose consistent with traditional American values.

RANGE OF CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND INFORMATIONAL SERVICES LIBRARIES OFFER ADULT LEARNERS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	8%	10%	79%		12%	6%	76%

Demand for library services is expected to increase, because:

* With rising age and educational levels, people will have more leisure time, and more flexible work schedules that enable them to engage in learning activities.
* Policy decision makers and professionals will want current access to information.
* There will be an increasing demand and public support to expand cultural, educational, and informational services in libraries.
* Technological and social inventions will increase the convenience, appeal, and value of library services.
* Librarians will provide leadership for creating a network of learning resource centers and learning exchanges.
* Libraries will function like a free univeristy for adult learners, offering public lectures, self-directed study courses, educational and career counseling, and testing, in addition to their normal services.

On the other hand:

* Libraries are vulnerable targets for funding cuts.
* Few metropolitan libraries will have sufficient funds to increase services, and many smaller libraries have had to cut back on book buying.
* They are competing with traditional postsecondary institutions for scarce resources, and it is not yet clear where support will go.

USE OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING TO DELIVER CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO MASS AUDIENCES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	1%	15%	82%		9%	7%	84%

Public media can reach millions, and by increasing the quality and diversity of their programs they will provide the most cost-effective alternative for audiences to attend lectures, concerts, theatre performances, art museums, and public affairs discussions.

A wider array of program options will be provided through communications satellites, cable TV, and low-cost audiovisual recording.

As the public becomes saturated with poor quality programs on commercial TV, they will turn to public broadcasting, which will provide convenient access to non-traditional educational programs through long-distance learning at work and at home, in libraries, and in many public buildings.

But concerns are expressed about the government's role. Funding from the government must be independent of government interference and dissemination of government propaganda.

Traditional educational institutions criticize the lack of personal interaction between teachers and learners and the superficial quality of program content.

Commercial broadcasting networks will have the financial resources to capitalize on any trend evident to increase the quality of cultural and educational offerings if the public demands them.

INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY IN DEVELOPING NEW FORMS OF ARTISTIC AND LITERARY EXPRESSION

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	9%	39%	46%		21%	18%	42%

With increased affluence, rising educational levels, and more leisure time, there will be more cultural participation. Public support through the National Endowment for the Humanities will provide opportunities for artists and stimulate community support.

On the other hand, society will have to learn to support efforts beyond pop culture and television sensationalism.

With inflation and rising taxes, government spending for the humanities will have a lower priority. Unfortunately, young creative people will be discouraged from following artistic and literary careers because they will expect low financial returns.

ATTENDANCE AT, PARTICIPATION IN, AND SUPPORT OF THE NATION'S ART MUSEUMS, CONCERTS, AND THEATERS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 242	5%	24%	69%		17%	7%	70%
C	N= 127	17%	37%	43%		33%	10%	46%

Differences in the two views are based on different assumptions about future economic conditions and the appeal of cultural programs to mass audiences.

The optimistic view is that interest and demand will increase as the population ages, becomes more affluent, and has more leisure time. Political and financial support will follow the interest of large audiences.

The conservative view is based on the rising operating costs of museums, concert halls, and theaters that will make operation of these institutions difficult without federal support. But more "urgent" programs have priority in the public mind. Since there will not be much surplus money (most will be spent satisfying basic economic needs), leisure time will still be spent primarily in recreational rather than cultural activities.

ATTENDANCE AT, PARTICIPATION IN, AND SUPPORT OF THE NATION'S PLANETARIUMS, ZOOS, AQUARIUMS, BOTANICAL GARDENS, AND MUSEUMS OF NATURAL HISTORY

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 255	3%	25%	69%		12%	7%	69%
C	N= 85	8%	35%	49%		27%	9%	47%

Interest in museums will increase, especially as it becomes more costly and difficult to view plant and wildlife in natural habitats, but museums will need public and private support.

They may have to redesign exhibits for adult or family viewers, keeping the older population in mind.

The conservative view is aware of the pull of "basic necessities" and "critical social problems" for public money, and the competition of popular leisure activities for public time and attention.

PART XV: MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

AMOUNT OF TIME AMERICANS SPEND VIEWING TELEVISION

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 294	27%	43%	27%	39%	23%	36%
M	N= 478	19%	39%	41%	39%	30%	24%
C	N= 302	11%	42%	46%	63%	20%	14%

Americans spend more time viewing TV than in any other leisure activity, and critics feel it has turned us into spectators rather than participants in life.

TV informs but it does not educate, and the deterioration in intellectual skills is apparent at all levels of American education.

TV has also adversely affected family and community life; less time is spent talking with one another, with friends, and on community activities, hobbies and physical exercise.

Finally, the unreal world of sex, violence, and wealth portrayed on TV erodes traditional moral values. But even if there is a marked improvement in the quality of the shows, the variety of programs available (some of which focus on lifelong learning), there is a real question whether TV might not still detract too much from more wholesome cultural, physical, and social activities.

IMPACT OF TV ADVERTISING AND PROGRAMMING IN THE LIFESTYLES OF VIEWERS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L	N= 77	27%	39%	29%	39%	21%	30%
M	N= 198	15%	34%	50%	39%	32%	22%
C	N= 90	4	32%	62%	73%	12%	7%

Although they note that millions of Americans are receiving the advertising messages of the major broadcasting networks daily, and these messages stimulate economic growth by stimulating consumer demand, the liberal view is that Americans will become increasingly skeptical and resistant to TV ads.

They are hopeful that the competition of the public stations will enable discerning audiences to choose better programs.

The conservative view is that TV ads debase American taste, encourage excessive buying and spending and an unrealistic leisure ethic, and by presenting stereotypes which are accepted, have a disastrous effect on cultural values.

USE OF THE PRINTED PAGE TO COMMUNICATE INFORMATION, e.g., LETTERS, BOOKS, AND NEWSPAPERS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact) Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N=1,074	50%	28%	20%	30%	36%	33%

The forecast of a gradual decline in the use of the printed page is expected to have both beneficial and adverse effects.

* Electronic transmission of information will be more efficient for business; it will save time, energy, and money and be more flexible in retrieval of information.
* Printed reports will still be prepared to allow time to contemplate difficult problems and to digest data, so reading will be as essential to decision makers as it is today.
* Reading may be for the elite with electronic media serving the majority.
* Compared to newspapers, electronic media informs people superficially, yet newspapers' popularity seems to have peaked.

* Publishing creates a demand for reading material, and the number of books and magazines published each year has been rising steadily.
* Competition from audiovisual receivers and recording devices will increase as they become more flexible, portable, and appealing.
* Print and perhaps reading will survive, but communication of words, newspapers, and journal articles may be through electronic communication devices.
* Unless the habits of reading and writing are reinforced, the TV generation will become an audiovisual culture.

PROTECTION OF THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF PUBLISHERS AND AUTHORS UNDER COPYRIGHT LAWS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	14%	34%	37%		14%	23%	34%

Advancing technology in duplication makes it increasingly difficult to stem the current abuses of copyright laws. The property rights of publishers and authors are now largely unenforceable, and efforts to protect them in the future will increase the volume of litigation and the cost of intellectual products to the consumer. Balance has to be achieved among protection of property, rights, fair educational use, and the public's right to know.

USE OF POPULAR MASS MEDIA FOR THE DELIVERY OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, e.g., NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, AND TELEVISION

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 365	2%	13%	84%		9%	20%	64%

Recent experiments with the Open University, educational TV, and newspaper courses are demonstrating what the European nations have already shown -- that mass media is an excellent way of reaching large audiences with educational programs.

Creative uses of mass media are expected to increase at all levels of education, supplementing and offering alternatives to formal educational programs.

The major barriers will be political and financial. Conflicts over who controls program content and how the development and delivery will be financed are anticipated, as well as questions of whether government-sponsored broadcasting will be used for purposes of persuasion or as a substitute for government services.

USE OF AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA WHICH PERMIT VIEWER RATHER THAN TV STATION SELECTION OF PROGRAMS

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 369	1%	11%	79%		7%	11%	80%

While TV networks probably will continue to be geared to mass markets and popular taste which will not offer much choice to discerning audiences, communications satellites, cable TV, and audiovisual recorders will give viewers much more variety and control over the selection of programs.

USE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE INTERACTIVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN REMOTE LOCATIONS, e.g., OFFICE, HOME, AND LIBRARY

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N=1,074	1%	1%	97%		2%	22%	76%

There will be some consumer resistance at first, but from 1980 on:

* The affluent, well-educated, and young will be the first to innovate.
* Prices will become lower so even average consumers will be able to afford the technology.
* Interactive communications and computer systems will be used in offices, public buildings, and libraries before they are installed in homes.

* Decision makers, with convenient access to better information, will make better decisions.
* Time, energy, and money will be saved by transmitting information rather than transporting people.
* More flexible locations of homes and offices will result, encouraging part-time work and more flexible work schedules.
* People who are homebound will be able to have more social contact with others and to get help.

The possibilities for lifelong learning are exciting:

* Better communications systems will eliminate the barriers of time and space.
* The cost of delivering educational programs will be reduced.
* The focus will be on increased competence; attention will be given to learning how to access information, think creatively and rationally, and how to communicate effectively with others rather than on fact retention.
* The benefits will be a better educated and informed citizenry.

There are reservations:

* Centralized control of information systems and communications will make citizens and consumers vulnerable to abuses of power.
* Equality of access is expected to be a problem in even a decentralized system. Affluent, well-educated decision makers will be first to apply the new technology and "will gain an advantage" over the poor and less educated.
* Information technology may create a whole new underclass of illiterates, increasing the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots."
* Better education and training will be necessary to insure equal opportunity of access to information in the decades ahead.

PART XVI: LEISURE AND RECREATION

NUMBER OF WORKERS WILLING TO SACRIFICE HIGHER PAY FOR MORE LEISURE TIME

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C N=1,074	10%	36%	51%		15%	31%	38%

Attitudes toward work and leisure fluctuate with the economy. With increased productivity:

* Workers at higher income levels will be able to trade off higher wages for more leisure time.
* Better trained and educated manpower will receive higher salaries and demand more leisure time for professional development and personal pleasure.
* Advances in technology will demand less manpower to increase productivity.
* Depending on the satisfaction workers derive from leisure time, they may be more willing to sacrifice higher pay for an alternative lifestyle.
* The concern is that the leisure ethic will produce a decline in productivity, increasing inflation and making effective competition with foreign nations impossible.

People still do identify with their work and derive meaning from it.

With rising inflation and higher taxes, both marital partners will have to work.

* Some workers will hold two jobs.
* To absorb increasing numbers into the work force, e.g., women and seniors, it will be necessary to adopt flexible work schedules which permit job sharing and part-time work.

PERCENTAGE OF PERSONAL AND FAMILY INCOME AMERICANS SPEND ON ENTERTAINMENT

(Forecast)	Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C N= 365	16%	26%	53%		16%	40%	28%

As income lags behind inflation, more people will be forced to work longer hours and spend more of their income on necessities, e.g., food, housing, energy, and clothing. But social class will determine how people spend their money.

* The affluent and better educated will spend more on leisure: education, travel, exercise, reading, and dining out.
* Unless public facilities are provided, lower-income groups will be limited to TV, spectator sports, fast food restaurants, and meeting with friends.
* At all levels, escape and leisure will be through alcoholism, drug addiction, or overeating.
* Those with less discretionary money will return to simpler pleasures, using their own creativity and interests for entertainment. Values will change, and leisure will become more personally rewarding.
* Education during early years and adult education in later years will increase awareness of the wide range of options.
* The leisure industry is big business, promoting and creating a demand for goods and services which will benefit the economy, but increase consumer spending to levels that will put many into debt.

AMOUNT OF TIME AMERICANS SPEND READING BOOKS FOR PLEASURE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 275	28%	36%	36%		39%	12%	37%
C	N= 90	54%	29%	17%		74%	3%	19%

The liberal/moderate view:

* Reading, at a fairly high level now, will decline as the TV generation reaches maturity.
* The well educated who now read will increasingly do so as they become surfeited with TV and reach retirement age.
* With rising levels of functional literacy, more people will be able to read, but they may not read for enjoyment as much as for information.
* More people will read material on copy transmitted through communications devices into the home.
* Books will become increasingly expensive.

The conservative view:

* There is an impending decline of reading as an activity because functional literacy in the next generation will probably be low as few teachers are spending the required time to teach this basic skill.
* People will be too busy to read and will use TV, which is easier.
* Reading fits better with the simpler lifestyles of the past.

AMOUNT OF TIME AMERICANS SPEND IN SPORTS ACTIVITIES AND PHYSICAL EXERCISE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M	N= 242	0%	9%	88%		5%	8%	83%
C	N= 127	6%	28%	65%		20%	9%	61%

There will be a rapid increase in physical exercise and sports activity in the U.S. because people are more conscious of the physical and mental benefits of exercise in maintaining good health.

* Public health agencies will encourage such activities for physical fitness as a preventive medical approach.
* Employers will invest in health and physical fitness facilities to promote better morale and worker productivity.
* Employers will design jobs which permit more flexible work schedules and more leisure time to encourage physical fitness.
* Excess participation in sports and physical fitness diminishes the time spent in intellectual and artistic pursuits.
* More research on sports medicine will be needed to prevent death and serious injury from overly strenuous activity.

The conservative view:

* The current trend of increased physical activity will level off in the future.
* Except for the minority, current enthusiasm is a passing fad.
* Most Americans will participate as spectators.
* If physical exercise is excessive, it diverts peoples' attention from their work and other important issues that need attention.

TIME PEOPLE SPEND GROWING, MAKING, AND REPAIRING WHAT THEY NEED RATHER THAN PURCHASING GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE MARKETPLACE

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	19%	23%	56%		16%	24%	52%

Inflation, rising unemployment, and increased leisure time will force people to adopt simpler lifestyles. Some will adopt simpler lifestyles by choice, but more by necessity, and there are limits:

* Adoption of simpler lifestyles will be a middle-class luxury because it is limited by available land space, less efficient, and more costly than mass production methods.
* Consumer-oriented Americans prefer new products, and few people have the skills necessary to repair things.

PUBLIC USE OF FORESTS, PARKS, WILDERNESS AREAS, BEACHES, CAMPGROUNDS AND OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

(Forecast)		Decrease	No Change	Increase	(Impact)	Unfavorable	Mixed	Favorable
L/M/C	N= 340	2%	7%	89%		11%	25%	59%

Public demand for access to wilderness areas for recreational and aesthetic uses will increase, but threatens the environment and access to scarce natural resources.

* Environmentalists will resist overcrowding, pollution, and damage to wildlife.
* There will be increasing competition for access to natural resources among environmentalists, industrial groups, private developers, and vacationers.
* Outdoor recreation facilities in the U.S. are already overcrowded. Further expansion in the future may be prohibitively expensive in both dollar costs and damage to wildlife.
* Damage to the environment will make facilities less attractive, diminishing the aesthetic pleasures and solitude people will be seeking.
* The government may decide to protect natural resources from current exploitation to insure access for future generations.

Future Directions for a Learning Society

The College Board

COMPLETING THE SURVEY → FIRST

Using the answer keys to the right and the examples given below, you are asked to ***respond to each societal trend statement*** in ***three*** different ways.

Space is provided for you to write in ***additional societal trend statements*** immediately following the prepared statements.

To complete the survey, answer the questions in the last two sections: ***Description of Forum Participants*** and ***Views on the Economy and Quality of Life.***

Forecast the direction and rate of change for the societal trend from 1980-2000:

- No Opinion
- Rapid Decrease
- Gradual Decrease
- No Change
- Gradual Increase
- Rapid Increase

DIRECTION AND RATE OF CHANGE 1980-2000

TREND STATEMENTS	No Opinion	Rapid Decrease	Gradual Decrease	No Change	Gradual Increase	Rapid Increase
A. Equality in the distribution of income between men and women					●	
B. Use of communications satellites and cable TV to deliver entertainment and educational programs into the home						●

A. In Example A, the respondent forecasts a **gradual increase** in "equality in the distribution of income between men and women" and views the impact as **favorable**.

B. In Example B, the respondent forecasts a **rapid increase** in the "use of communications satellites and cable TV . . ." and judges the impact as **very mixed**.

SECOND

Assess the **Impact** of the societal trend, as you have forecast it, on life in the U.S. from 1980-2000:

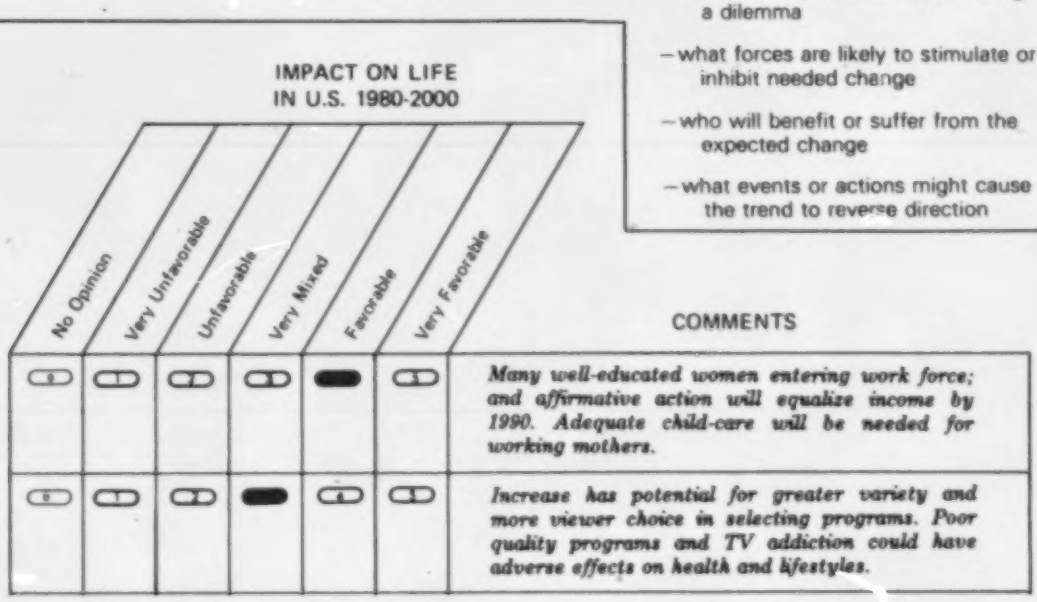
- No Opinion
- Very Unfavorable
- Unfavorable
- Very Mixed
- Favorable
- Very Favorable

THIRD

Comment on the societal trend in any way you want. The purpose of the comments is to enrich the scenarios and to clarify the intended meaning of your responses.

For example, you may want to comment on:

- what opportunities the trend suggests
- why the problem reflected in the trend is severe
- what the trade-offs are in resolving a dilemma
- what forces are likely to stimulate or inhibit needed change
- who will benefit or suffer from the expected change
- what events or actions might cause the trend to reverse direction


IMPACT ON LIFE
IN U.S. 1980-2000
No Opinion
Very Unfavorable
Unfavorable
Very Mixed
Favorable
Very Favorable
COMMENTS
Many well-educated women entering work force; and affirmative action will equalize income by 1990. Adequate child-care will be needed for working mothers.
Increase has potential for greater variety and more viewer choice in selecting programs. Poor quality programs and TV addiction could have adverse effects on health and lifestyles.

- **Very Mixed** indicates a dilemma where the mix of favorable and unfavorable outcomes benefits some groups at the expense of others; or high benefits are matched by high costs.

- **No Opinion** indicates that the societal trend is not relevant or will have no impact; you have insufficient information to have an opinion; or you think the trend is totally unpredictable.

Appendix B

Forum Participants

	Number	Percent Total
Political Leaders	62	4
White House (1), Congress (8), Governors (9), State legislators (11), Urban Mayors (14), other (19)		
Federal Agency Executives	48	3
Departments of: HEW (22), Labor (5), Agriculture (3), Interior (2), Energy (2); National Science Foundation (6), Civil Service Commission (2), Other (6)		
National Defense and Military	99	6
Chief Executive Officers (13), Military training officers (81), Veterans' organizations (5)		
Business and Industry	80	5
Board members and chief executives of major U.S. corporations (29), executives of business and trade associations (12), corporate personnel and training directors (39)		
Labor Unions	21	1
Chief Executive Officers (4), education directors (17)		
Political Interest Groups	82	5
Executives representing interests of following groups: citizens and consumers (7), women (21), minorities (15), senior citizens (9), environmental (7), youth/children (14), handicapped (9)		
Foundations	25	2
Board members and executive officers		
Mass Media and Communications	43	3
Executives of television and radio (16), commercial publishers (15), managing editors of newspapers and magazines (11), executives of motion pictures (1)		
Culture, Humanities and the Arts	73	5
Executives of public broadcasting (20), executives and leaders in humanities and arts (20), library directors (21), museum directors (9), other (3)		
Religious Organizations	80	5
National organization executives (27), lay board members (24), religious education directors (18), religious publishers (11)		
Health and Medical Professions	30	2
Executives of national professional associations (16) and health agencies (14)		
Community Service Agencies	22	1
Executives of voluntary and civic programs (14), recreation and rehabilitation (8)		

	Number	Percent Total
Educational and Professional Associations Executives of: accrediting agencies (22), national/regional compacts (6), institutional associations (17), academic and professional associations (34), consortia (20), state independent college associations (14), educational media (9)	122	8
State and Urban School Systems Chief state school officers (21), urban school superintendents (16), state directors of vocational education (14)	51	3
State Higher Education Systems Executives of higher education boards (54) and community and junior college boards (21)	75	5
Presidents of Colleges and Universities Research and doctoral-granting universities (35), comprehensive universities (32), liberal arts colleges (27), community and junior colleges (60)	154	10
Futurists, Scholars and Researchers Futurists and policy analysts (28), educational scholars and researchers (38), arts and sciences scholars and researchers (30), other (5)	101	6
University Presses and Journals Editors of university presses (14), editors of academic journals (21)	35	2
Adult Continuing Education Executives of national adult education associations (26), adult education scholars and researchers (32), state directors of adult education (27), urban directors of adult education (25), university directors of adult education (22)	132	9
Home Study, Trade and Business Institutions Executives of proprietary home study (7), trade and technical (27), and business institutes (13)	47	3
Agricultural Extension Directors of university and state agricultural extension	45	3
Open Access Education Programs Directors of external degree programs (27), educational brokers (21), free universities (10), library-independent study (7), other (4)	69	4
Miscellaneous	60	4
TOTALS	1556	99%

APPENDIX C

Technical Summary

1. Prospective participants in the forum were identified using a model suggested by Thomas R. Dye in Who's Running America? Institutional Leadership in the United States (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1976).

2. Quotas for representation of different interests in the forum were reviewed and approved by a 14-member project advisory committee.

3. Participants were selected and invited on the bases of such criteria as: size and centrality of the organization served, executive office held, nomination by key individuals, author citations in selected bibliographies, selection for Who's Who in America or National Academy of Arts and Sciences, and stratified random selection of institutions within relevant categories.

4. Letters of invitation were sent to 3637 prospective participants; 1556 accepted the invitation, 79 requested project questionnaires and reports, 581 refused the invitation, and 1430 did not reply.

5. Rates of acceptance to the invitation were lowest among chief executives and political leaders in the nation's largest and most influential organizations (5 to 20 percent). At the opposite extreme, rates of acceptance were highest among executives in educational institutions and professional associations (40 to 75 percent) and individuals directly involved in scholarly research, education, or training (45 to 90 percent).

6. A pool of 337 alternative societal trend statements was developed from research on international problems, futurist writings, and economic and social indicators.

7. The project advisory committee and consultants ranked each societal trend statement as: 1) essential; 2) desirable; or 3) not relevant or important, and criticized wording of the items.

8. The preliminary questionnaire received a trial run with a panel of 40 members of the Adult Learning Services Advisory Committee in the State of New York. Critiques were also prepared by College Board staff, members of the project advisory committee, and outside consultants.

9. As a pretest of construct validity, three independent judges classified 128 societal trend statements into 16 a priori classifications with a high degree of accuracy. At least 2 of the 3 judges agreed on virtually every statement classified. Most content areas were classified with 75 to 100 percent agreement with the a priori classification of statements.

10. Three different forms of the Societal Trends Survey were constructed, each containing 60 trend statements. Data describing the forum participants and 30 common items were selected, giving priority to the two most essential items in each content area. The remaining items were randomly assigned to each of the three forms.

11. Different forms of the Societal Trends Survey were randomly assigned to the forum participants, with the samples stratified by participant classification codes. A check on the randomization process revealed no significant differences among the samples for any variables common to the three forms.

12. A hierarchical cluster analysis was performed separately for each survey form based on all forecast and impact responses. The cluster map was used to order the questionnaires on the basis of the similarity of responses and to maximize separation among the three alternative scenarios.

13. A step-wise multiple-discriminant analysis was performed separately for each form, and separately for the forecast and impact responses, to identify the societal trend statements with the lowest level of agreement among the three alternative scenarios. The sum of the forecast and impact F values for variables selected as significant in the multivariate F test was used as the criterion for determining whether separate or combined tables would be presented for liberal, moderate, and conservative scenarios.

14. Applying the discriminant analysis weights to individual cases in the same population, the groups were accurately classified in 74 percent of the cases. When applied to randomly selected populations, using a jacknifed procedure, the groups were accurately classified in 71 percent of the cases.

15. Having defined three significantly different groups (i.e., alternative scenarios) and the societal trends on which there was significant disagreement, the comments were organized by group, content area, and societal trend statement. A content analysis was made for each set of comments looking for the dominant themes. An analysis was made on a 66 percent random sample of the questionnaires for each of the three forms of the survey instrument. Over 6,000 comments were reviewed; eliminating redundant themes, all comments the researcher could interpret were incorporated in the summary.

16. The comment summaries are necessarily more subjective than the response summaries. Depending on the number and clarity of comments, the picture presented for each scenario is more or less coherent and complete.

What is FDLS?

The Future Directions for a Learning Society (FDLS) program is a major effort toward the realization of a learning society in the United States. The program focuses on improving access and transition for learners, which has been the Board's role in education for more than 75 years. By building on recent Board programs that have increasingly focused on adults, the program extends this historic role to include assistance to adult learners and to the diverse agencies, institutions, and organizations that provide learning opportunities for them.

Funded by the Exxon Education Foundation, FDLS develops consensus and support for strategies, services, and policies that can best meet current and projected needs of participants and providers in a learning society. To this end, the program solicits and relies on the participation of professional people in the field, public policymakers, and the larger community. A major purpose of the Exxon grant is to promote the mobilization of additional funds and other resources necessary for major initiatives in this developing field. The initial grant supports the project's planning and management, the identification and design of service areas, the review and analysis of public policy, and publishing of relevant materials.

The program will produce projections of future trends, information about the needs of learners and providers of educational opportunities and resources, policy recommendations, and services. The program is engaged in finding better ways to gauge the needs of learners, in identifying the problems institutions face in meeting learners' needs, in strengthening learning opportunities, and in increasing public, professional, and political understanding of the field. A chief focus of the program is to demonstrate promising new approaches and specific services.

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